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QUEENSLAND.

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REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL ON AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL STATISTICS FOR 1899.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command.

TO THE UNDER SECRETARY, HOME SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

SIR.—I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Agricultural and Pastoral Statistics of the Colony for the past year, which I have endeavoured to make as comprehensive and complete as possible. All the different interests have been treated separately, and the fullest information afforded respecting each one that has been obtainable.

LIVE STOCK.

The report on the above heading for this year is not of a progressive or encouraging nature, inasmuch as it records considerable decreases in the three great lines—viz., horses, cattle, and sheep; pigs alone showing an increase, as compared with the figures of last year. Drought of almost unprecedented severity has held sway in the Western portions of the Colony for many months, causing death and destruction to all classes of stock, and corresponding losses to owners. Whilst the land over this drought-stricken section of the Colony is, for the most part, of the best quality, and with the smallest rainfall is ever ready to respond with abundance of grasses and herbage, yet with an entire absence of rain vegetation is impossible.

This country is wanting in natural permanent water, as a rule, and large sums have been spent by the pastoral lessees in its conservation; dams, tanks, and artesian bores having been made at great expense to utilise portions not naturally provided with a permanent water supply, and much country otherwise waterless has been rendered available in this way.

The absence of moisture in the atmosphere at ordinary times converts the natural grasses into hay, which retains its nutritive qualities for a very long time, so that the flocks and herds do not suffer to any great extent so long as the dry feed remains available. Bush fires, however, are apt to rise and sweep away all provision for the future, and whilst cattle are fairly safe from the fire itself, sheep frequently fall victims to the flames.

The number of live stock in the Colony on the 31st December, 1899, is shown in the following table, which also gives similar figures for the previous year, and centesimal rates of increase and decrease:—

A.

Year.	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1898	480,469	5,571,292	17,552,608	127,081
1899	479,127	5,053,836	15,226,479	139,118
Numerical Increase in 1899	...	...	...	12,037
Numerical Decrease in 1899	...	1,342	517,456	...
Centesimal Increase in 1899	...	...	...	9.47
Centesimal Decrease in 1899	...	0.28	9.29	13.25

Tables are also given in the Appendix showing the numbers of each kind of stock in each Petty Sessions District in the Colony. (See numbers I. to VI., Appendix tables.)

From the above it will be seen that there has been for 1899, as compared with 1898, a decrease in horses of 1,342, but as 5,411 have gone out of the Colony as against 2,553 imported in that time, the decrease is owing to exportation.

A statement is given below showing the number and value of horses imported and exported during 1899, giving countries imported from or exported to:—

IMPORTED DURING 1899.

	Number.	Value.	£
Sewards—			
United Kingdom	...	2	100
New South Wales	...	201	8,773
Victoria	...	31	2,510
South Australia	...	8	96
	—	242	11,479
Borderwise—			
New South Wales	...	2,239	9,545
South Australia	...	72	252
	—	2,311	9,797
Total	...	2,553	21,276

EXPORTED DURING 1899.

	Number.	Value. £	£
Seawards—			
New South Wales	... ... 76	... 3,199	
Hong Kong	... ... 4	... 144	
India	... ... 959	... 9,728	
Cape Colony	... ... 300	... 2,000	
Philippine Islands	... ... 15	... 300	
	— 1,354	—	15,371
Borderwise—			
New South Wales	... ... 3,734	... 19,389	
South Australia	... ... 323	... 1,515	
	— 4,057	—	20,904
Total	... ... ...	5,411	36,275

The decrease in cattle, however, amounts to 517,456 head—a fact largely attributable to the drought before alluded to. Another factor in reducing the numbers not to be lost sight of is the increased number and greater capacity of the various meat preserving works now in active operation, where cattle are used to a very much larger extent than sheep. During the past year some difficulty has been experienced by several of these establishments in obtaining supplies of really prime cattle, and they have been compelled to close their works earlier than would have been done had first-class cattle been plentiful.

Allowance must be made, too, for 205,243 head of cattle exported as against 16,972 imported.

The centesimal decrease in horned cattle for 1899, as compared with 1898, is 9·29.

In sheep the losses are larger and more startling, being no less than 2,326,129 head, or a centesimal decrease of 13·25.

The number of sheep in the Colony on 31st December, 1899, was 15,226,479, being less than recorded at any period since 1889. The number exported during the past year was 463,276 head, whilst 200,523 were imported.

Queensland, in respect to losses in sheep, has suffered similarly to New South Wales, where they are stated to have amounted to 4,927,490 sheep as compared with the previous year.

Very heavy expenses have been incurred by the pastoral lessees in endeavouring to save their sheep, large quantities of lucerne and other hay having been imported, and the railways have been largely availed of to convey starving sheep from the foodless runs of the West to the more favoured country nearer the coast. On the runs, large numbers of men have been employed cutting down trees for the sheep to eat the foliage, in the hopes that rain may fall in time to afford grass and save the lives of the flocks.

So far, however, rain has not fallen in quantities sufficient to make grass grow, and the losses threaten to be still heavier.

In pigs there is a marked increase, the numbers having reached 139,118 head in 1899, being 12,037 animals more than in 1898, or a centesimal increase of 9·47. The number of pigs now in the Colony is greater than ever before recorded, and would indicate that it is an animal from which a considerable amount of profit may be derived with suitable care and attention. The advent of bacon factories has rendered pig-keeping profitable, as these establishments afford the means of turning the animal to account whenever in fit condition.

A table is appended showing the numbers of each class of stock in the Colony for the past ten years:—

A a.

SHOWING the NUMBER of HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, and PIGS, in the Colony of Queensland—RETURN for TEN YEARS.

Year.	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1890 ...	365,812	5,558,264	18,007,234	96,836
1891 ...	399,364	6,192,759	20,289,633	122,672
1892 ...	422,769	6,591,416	21,708,310	116,930
1893 ...	429,734	6,693,200	18,697,015	68,086
1894 ...	444,109	7,012,997	19,587,691	89,677
1895 ...	468,743	6,822,401	19,856,959	100,747
1896 ...	452,207	6,507,377	19,593,696	97,434
1897 ...	479,280	6,089,013	17,797,883	110,855
1898 ...	480,469	5,571,292	17,552,608	127,081
1899 ...	479,127	5,053,836	15,226,479	139,118

A table is also given showing the centesimal increase and decrease in each class of stock for the past ten years:—

A b.

Year.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1890 ...	3·82	14·08	24·44	19·95
1891 ...	9·20	11·42	12·67	26·67
1892 ...	5·86	6·44	6·99	— 4·68
1893 ...	1·65	1·54	— 13·87	— 41·77
1894 ...	3·35	4·78	4·76	31·71
1895 ...	5·55	— 2·72	1·37	12·34
1896 ...	— 3·53	— 4·63	— 1·33	— 3·29
1897 ...	5·99	— 6·43	— 9·17	13·77
1898 ...	0·25	— 8·50	— 1·38	14·64
1899 ...	— 0·28	— 9·29	— 13·25	9·47

— Decrease.

DISTRIBUTION.

A table has been prepared showing the stock of each kind returned in each of the three great divisions of the Colony for 1899, together with numerical and centesimal increase and decrease as compared with 1898.

A.c.

Division.		Year.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
SOUTHERN	...	1898	229,259	2,241,946	7,261,419	103,256
	...	1899	221,479	2,042,387	6,080,238	113,001
Numerical Increase in 1899	...	...	...	...	...	9,745
Numerical Decrease in 1899	...	...	7,780	199,559	1,181,181	...
Centesimal Increase in 1899	...	...	...	...	...	9,44
Centesimal Decrease in 1899	...	...	3.39	8.90	16.27	...
CENTRAL	...	1898	128,869	1,654,469	8,433,378	10,017
	...	1899	128,272	1,484,370	6,904,226	9,892
Numerical Increase in 1899...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Numerical Decrease in 1899...	...	...	597	170,099	1,529,152	125
Centesimal Increase in 1899...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Centesimal Decrease in 1899...	...	...	0.46	10.28	18.13	1.25
NORTHERN	...	1898	122,341	1,674,877	1,857,811	13,808
	...	1899	129,376	1,527,079	2,242,015	16,225
Numerical Increase in 1899...	...	...	7,035	...	384,204	2,417
Numerical Decrease in 1899...	...	...	...	147,798	...	...
Centesimal Increase in 1899...	...	...	5.75	...	20.68	17.50
Centesimal Decrease in 1899...	...	...	...	8.82	...	...

From the above it will be seen that whilst the Southern and Central divisions show decreases on horses, cattle, and sheep, the Northern division shows a decrease on cattle only, an increase having taken place with respect to horses and sheep.

Too much importance cannot be attached to variations in numbers in localities this year, as owing to drought many large western stations are now denuded of stock which have been sent away to wherever water and grass can be obtained, to endeavour to save their lives. In this way sheep from stations beyond Longreach are returned at Clermont, Emerald, and Springsure, where they have been taken for feed, and sheep from stations beyond Hughenden have been taken to coastal stations for the same end.

Until the drought has broken up and animals are returned to their own stations, therefore, no reliance can be placed on the stock returned at any one place, being located where they usually belong, and the returns of stock for the different portions of the Colony are for this reason and for this particular purpose unreliable for this year. Ordinarily the stock are located on the stations to which they belong, but owing to the disturbing influences of the drought they have been frequently returned in 1899, in districts far away from their owner's station.

Tables are given in the Appendix numbers I. to VI., showing the stock returned in each Petty Sessions District in the Colony, but for the reasons already given they cannot, for 1899, be taken to give the stock belonging to the district for which they are returned.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF LIVE STOCK.

A table appears below showing the numbers of cattle and sheep imported and exported during the past ten years:—

A.d.

Year.	Horned Cattle.		Sheep.	
	Inwards.	Outwards.	Inwards.	Outwards.
1890 ...	3,684	494,944	386,625	472,282
1891 ...	3,535	210,240	281,670	513,201
1892 ...	6,923	130,989	463,323	421,318
1893 ...	7,903	183,663	223,655	1,016,945
1894 ...	2,286	135,858	156,596	430,646
1895 ...	5,590	80,620	186,007	295,032
1896 ...	10,127	272,622	94,620	89,720
1897 ...	13,197	176,329	289,768	1,114,270
1898 ...	13,867	194,648	158,843	641,177
1899 ...	16,972	205,243	200,523	463,276

From the above it will be seen that a larger number of cattle both entered and left the Colony during the past year compared with the two preceding ones, but with regard to sheep, whilst the number inward for 1899 exceeded that for 1898 by one-fourth, there was a large falling off in the number outwards.

The difficulties respecting quarantine and the increased value of both cattle and sheep doubtless tend to restrict this trade, and render the numbers exported less than would otherwise be so dealt with,

RELATIVE VALUES OF EXPORTS.

In view of the expansion of some forms of industry within the Colony, it may not be out of place to analyse the exports and place them in classes, accordingly as each belongs to the agricultural, pastoral, or mining industry. Some few seem to belong almost as much to one class as the other; but there can be no doubt of the fairness of placing all frozen and preserved meats and other productions of meatworks and boiling-down establishments to the credit of the pastoral industry. These, with live animals, wool, tallow, hides, and all the various by-products of sheep and cattle, constitute the bulk of pastoral exports, and total during the year 1899 no less a sum than £7,025,166, or 61·2 per cent. of the total exports of Queensland for that year.

That pastoralists in the West should have suffered to the extent they have done from the drought during the past two years, is nothing less than a calamity to the whole Colony, since it will have the effect of reducing the quantities for export of pastoral products for the year now current, and curtailing the expenditure on improvements and labour employed in preparing those products for export.

In preparing the agricultural portion of the table given below, no allowance is made for the value of such products as are consumed by our own population, the figures being confined to the share contributed by the agricultural products exported in arriving at the gross total.

Although pigs and dairy cattle are live animals, yet they and their products are exclusively obtained from farmers, so that bacon and butter exported have been classed with and as agricultural products.

Agricultural products to the value of £1,367,502 were exported during 1899, and form 12 per cent. of the total value of exports for that year.

All articles belonging to the mineral class of exports are clearly and easily defined, and do not merge into the other classes as do the two former items. The total value of minerals exported during 1899 amount to £3,078,099, and form 26·8 per cent. of the total value of the exports of the Colony for that year.

The following table shows the value of each class and total value of exports of the products of Queensland during the year 1899:—

EXPORTS.						Produce of the Colony.	Percentage to total Exports
Agricultural	...	...	...	...	...	£1,367,502	12·0
Pastoral	...	...	...	...	...	7,025,166	61·2
Mining	...	...	...	...	...	3,078,099	26·8
						£11,470,767	100·0

SIZES OF HERDS OF CATTLE.

A table is given below showing numbers of owners, &c., in districts returning not less than 100,000 head of cattle. Districts returning less than that number are grouped together in one line as "All Other Districts."

A.e.

Petty Sessions District.	Owners.	1 to 100.	Owners.	101 to 300.	Owners.	301 and upwards.	Total Owners.	Total Cattle.	
Boulia	13	458	...	...	24	171,012	37	171,470
Burke	10	340	1	160	15	134,364	26	134,864	
Charters Towers	357	9,204	40	6,773	31	104,792	428	120,769	
Clermont	176	4,997	29	5,233	38	140,572	243	150,802	
Cloncurry	18	543	10	1,612	20	237,678	48	239,833	
Gayndah	124	2,694	12	2,325	25	128,823	161	133,842	
Hughenden	93	2,068	9	1,460	36	224,596	138	228,124	
Mackay	690	10,904	18	3,161	29	91,391	737	105,456	
Norman	11	215	1	280	27	240,985	39	241,480	
Rockhampton	641	13,575	87	16,228	85	151,599	813	181,402	
St. Lawrence	38	1,373	3	785	26	116,382	67	118,540	
Springsure	109	3,431	10	1,935	31	133,051	150	138,417	
Taroom	56	1,406	8	1,548	29	142,469	93	145,423	
Thargomindah	25	771	5	970	27	215,289	57	217,030	
Windorah	22	525	8	962	19	136,213	49	137,700	
All other Districts	19,721	420,005	1,053	196,008	829	1,972,671	21,603	2,588,684	
Totals	...	22,104	472,509	1,294	239,440	1,291	4,341,887	24,689	5,053,836

By comparing this table with similar ones for previous years, it will be seen that the number of cattle is smaller in each district for 1899 than in the previous year, except in two instances—Taroom and Charters Towers—and the increases shown by them are probably due partly to natural increase and partly to transfers from other districts to these. Considerable trouble is experienced through managers who have in some years returned their stock to one Court of Petty Sessions, for some unexplained reason return them to another; and in other cases, where returns have been made for different blocks of country to different Courts of Petty Sessions, consolidating the blocks into one run, and returning all the stock to one of the courts without mentioning that stock is included which was previously returned separately and under another name. It is frequently a troublesome task to locate the stock in their respective districts owing to no notice or mention being made on the return of a change in the method of making them out by manager or owner. Changes of ownership and managers frequently lead to trouble in this respect.

Compared with 1898, the numbers of owners and of cattle owned by them has increased on both columns of the smaller herds, but have diminished, as must necessarily be the case, in the column showing 301 and upwards. The total number of owners has increased, whilst the number of cattle has decreased considerably.

SIZES OF FLOCKS OF SHEEP.

In the table given below there are the same number of districts in the Colony returning over 100,000 sheep as for the two previous years, but the number under each heading has changed, and most noticeably in the column showing from 1,000 to 5,000 head, where the number of persons owning flocks of this size have increased from 311 in 1898, to 414 in 1899—an increase of one-third; the averages for each owner being in 1898 equal to 2,679 sheep, and for last year 2,616 sheep. In flocks from 5,000 to 20,000 there is only one person less in 1899, but the average number of sheep for each person is considerably more. The greatest difference appears in owners of 20,000 and upwards; the number having sunk from 206 owners in 1898, to 190 in 1899, whilst the average number to each owner has fallen from 68,857 to 59,364.

For the reason before stated, however, no reliance can be placed on this return so far as showing sheep belonging to each district is concerned, since so many are away for feed, and it would be altogether erroneous to treat the increase or decrease in the different districts as other than transitory and occasioned by drought. Until the country has regained its normal condition and the sheep have returned to their own district, comments on increases, &c., of different localities would be of very uncertain value.

A f.

Petty Sessions Districts.	50 and Under.		51 to 1,000.		1,001 to 5,000.		5,001 to 20,000.		20,000 and Upwards.		Total Number of Sheep.	
	Owners.	Sheep.	Owners.	Sheep.	Owners.	Sheep.	Owners.	Sheep.	Owners.	Sheep.	Total Owners.	Total Sheep.
			Owners.	Sheep.			Owners.	Sheep.			Owners.	Sheep.
Adavale ...	2	25	1	150	2	7,590	3	37,953	4	414,662	12	460,380
Aramac ...	...	...	5	1,970	10	31,200	6	70,150	3	74,620	24	177,940
Augathella ...	4	48	4	2,344	1	1,150	1	15,000	2	113,644	12	132,186
Barcaldine ...	10	196	5	1,364	17	51,450	8	77,682	9	429,910	49	560,602
Blackall ...	8	62	6	1,838	13	32,600	7	70,500	7	492,728	41	597,728
Bollon ...	5	61	3	970	4	10,008	5	59,647	6	207,079	23	277,755
Boulia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	15,644	3	124,005	4	139,649
Charleville ...	19	261	7	3,220	15	38,870	2	28,000	4	149,708	47	220,059
Clermont ...	18	351	5	1,662	9	29,317	2	19,375	9	703,229	43	753,934
Cloncurry ...	4	23	1	60	...	...	1	10,000	7	445,641	13	455,724
Cunnamulla ...	3	92	10	4,411	66	189,630	7	51,576	10	448,200	96	693,909
Dalby ...	32	797	58	31,190	55	111,589	9	93,799	6	323,854	160	561,229
Eulo ...	...	...	5	2,800	10	25,800	3	39,847	1	44,940	19	113,387
Goondiwindi ...	7	90	8	4,125	9	24,909	9	83,731	4	225,837	37	338,692
Hughenden ...	2	27	3	1,303	10	38,440	32	346,480	24	1,342,992	71	1,729,242
Hungerford ...	...	...	5	1,850	4	10,500	1	6,000	6	461,662	17	480,014
Isisford ...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	699,875	84	1,277,898
Longreach ...	6	177	16	5,140	26	84,866	29	487,840	16	1,250,965	30	1,346,335
Muttaburra ...	1	19	2	950	3	12,385	8	82,016	2	54,368	52	123,228
Roma ...	18	310	17	8,073	11	28,462	4	32,015	7	418,948	45	559,636
St. George ...	7	154	3	900	20	64,696	8	74,938	5	283,294	50	388,196
Springsure ...	21	395	4	3,200	12	16,373	8	84,934	5	129,979	36	244,646
Surat ...	1	50	10	6,230	13	34,997	9	73,390	6	284,093	18	362,481
Tambo ...	1	20	2	872	2	3,700	7	73,796	5	235,905	23	359,363
Thargomindah ...	1	50	1	700	6	20,800	10	101,908	9	423,700	171	625,827
Toowoomba ...	22	305	102	43,169	30	67,568	8	91,085	3	102,913	71	184,537
Warwick ...	16	248	36	16,693	13	32,150	3	32,533	4	321,532	26	391,353
Windorah ...	5	121	8	4,300	4	11,400	5	54,000	10	749,097	22	796,185
Winton ...	1	2	5	2,375	3	9,341	3	35,460	5	143,890	598	696,440
All other Districts	317	6,031	195	55,427	46	93,318	35	397,774	190	11,279,094	1,897	15,226,479
Totals ...	532	9,917	527	207,286	414	1,083,109	234	2,647,073	190	11,279,094	1,897	15,226,479

A table is given below showing the average number of sheep to each holding for the past ten years, by which it will be seen that the average size of flocks has diminished steadily and continuously each year:—

A g.

Year.	No. of Owners.	No. of Sheep.	Average Size of Flocks.
1890 ...	849	18,007,234	21,210
1891 ...	1,018	20,289,633	19,931
1892 ...	1,496	21,708,310	14,511
1893 ...	1,440	18,697,015	12,984
1894 ...	1,584	19,587,691	12,366
1895 ...	1,637	19,856,959	12,130
1896 ...	1,664	19,593,696	11,775
1897 ...	1,793	17,797,883	9,926
1898 ...	1,835	17,552,608	9,565
1899 ...	1,897	15,226,479	8,027

The increase in the number of owners in the class returning from 1,000 to 5,000 sheep may be looked upon as a most promising feature in the year's returns. Where sheep are held in great numbers and on large holdings, they certainly return the largest profits in good seasons, and admit of owners having the latest improvements for shearing and the largest number of sheep to the smallest relative cost of management; but in bad seasons the enormous quantity of food required, if feeding were attempted, with the cost of handling and feeding the animals, makes anything in that way so costly as to deter owners from attempting it for any but the more valuable stud animals.

With smaller holdings and numbers, greater attention can be paid to the animals, smaller paddocks can be used, and as the animals are more frequently handled they become quieter and do better. Probably in time, as the land and animals both become more valuable, it will be found necessary to make provision for times of scarcity, and have areas set apart for cultivation, the crops to be stored and stacked until required.

The grazing capabilities of land at present are confined to what it will carry in an ordinary season, and all the surplus grasses in a good season are allowed to go to waste. The amount of dried grass swept off every year by bush fires is enormous, and much of this could have been turned to the best of hay if cut at the proper time and properly cured. The question is simply one of, Will it pay? On the one side is the cost of cutting, curing, and stacking the hay and afterwards feeding it to the stock, and, on the other hand, the benefit derived by keeping the animals in fair order—or, at all events, saving their lives, and also improving the quality of the wool by avoiding the breaks in staple following times of starvation.

A table is given below, showing the number of animals per square mile of country and per capita of population for each of the three great divisions of the Colony, and also for the whole Colony.

It is also reduced to terms of sheep, ten sheep being taken as equal to one horse or head of cattle. With an increasing population and a decrease in the numbers of horses, cattle, and sheep, the percentages are naturally lower than in previous years.

A h.

	Southern Division.		Central Division.		Northern Division.		Colony.	
	Square Mile	Per Capita of Population.	Square Mile.	Per Capita of Population.	Square Mile.	Per Capita of Population.	Square Mile.	Per Capita of Population.
Horses	1.06	0.63	0.61	2.10	0.52	1.28	0.72	0.93
Cattle	9.76	5.83	7.10	24.36	6.10	15.06	7.56	9.86
Sheep	29.05	17.36	33.04	113.30	8.96	22.11	22.78	29.70
All kinds in terms of Sheep	137.23	81.99	110.21	377.94	75.15	185.49	105.54	137.64
Pigs ... ... ...	...	0.32	...	0.16	...	0.16	...	0.27
All kinds, including pigs, in terms of Sheep ... ...	...	82.31	...	378.10	...	185.65	...	137.91

CAUSES OF LOSS.

The causes which have led to the diminution in numbers are, firstly and principally, drought. From 1898 on through 1899 a state of drought was general throughout Queensland. It was relieved in the coastal districts by copious rains and floods in places on the Northern seaboard, but in the Western portion of the Colony it still holds the country in its grasp, paralysing transit and causing great havoc amongst the flocks and herds there. Drought is the great enemy the owners of sheep have to contend with, and, had the seasons but been propitious, the profits on all sheep properties should have been very satisfactory, for prices of both wool and mutton have increased, and the sheep is now a more valuable animal—or would be were the pastures in a fairly good condition—than it has been for a very long time.

Cattle have risen in price, and have been in great demand for export, either frozen or tinned.

At the end of 1898, cattle were somewhat scarce for freezing, and later the condition of the country westwards has reduced the numbers of available fats so as to cause the meatworks to close sooner than they would otherwise have done.

The more northern parts of the Colony had their time of trouble with ticks, and have since recovered in a great measure from the effects of that visitation, but the Central districts have had considerable losses from this cause during 1899.

The experience gained, however, in inoculation has been extremely valuable, and will tend to minimise the losses on the part of those owners who avail themselves of the recent discoveries of science.

Tuberculosis amongst dairy herds should soon be stamped out, as cattle are now tested for this disease, and many found affected have been destroyed.

Although not by any means loss, yet the number of animals killed for profit is a factor in reducing the numbers in the Colony, and should be considered here.

The numbers of cattle and sheep killed for this purpose in the two years of 1898 and 1899 are here contrasted:—

	1898. Cattle.	1899. Cattle.	1898. Sheep.	1899. Sheep.
Preserved, frozen, and boiled down	326,434	386,466	277,109	479,818
Exported less number imported	180,781	188,271	482,334	262,753
Estimated number killed for food for home consumption	246,301	254,432	985,204	1,017,728
	753,516	829,169	1,744,647	1,760,299

It will thus be seen that notwithstanding the scarcity of fat stock, the meat preserving and boiling-down establishments treated a greater number of animals during 1899 than previously by 60,000 cattle and 200,000 sheep.

It is most unfortunate that the drought should have been coincident with a largely increased demand for meat products and an advance in the price of wool. With a smaller supply of cattle and sheep fit for slaughter, the meatworks must close earlier, and a considerable number of men employed at these and kindred establishments be thrown out of work. The loss in wages caused by a drought cannot be compensated for by the men employed scrub-cutting, droving, &c.

If we take the number of cattle in the Colony at the end of 1898, and compare it with the number in the Colony at the end of 1899, plus the number slaughtered for profit and those exported, we find that the latter added together exceed the former by 311,713, which represents the net natural increase in cattle for 1899—a number far below what the increase would be in normal seasons, but still not altogether unsatisfactory, representing as it does an increase of 5.6 per cent. in the figures for 1898.

Treating sheep similarly, we find that the numbers at the end of 1899 added to the number killed for profit and those exported do not reach the number of sheep in the Colony by 565,830 head, so that all natural increase has been lost and over half a million sheep besides.

The table following shows these figures more clearly:—

		Cattle.		Sheep,
Animals in the Colony end of 1898	...	5,571,292	...	17,552,608
1899	5,053,836	...	15,226,479	
Number killed " and exported 1899	829,169	...	1,760,299	
		5,883,005		
Net natural increase for 1899	...	311,713		
Deficit, including all natural increase for 1899	...	...	...	565,830

LIVE STOCK SLAUGHTERED.

One great outlet for meat is now found in the export trade. The Spanish-American war led to large quantities of tinned meats being required, besides some frozen meat, by the American troops engaged at Manila. Later again, the South African war led to some large contracts being entered into for the supply of tinned meat to the Imperial and Colonial troops engaged there. The prevailing drought and consequent scarcity of fat stock probably prevented much larger contracts being obtained. Had a normal season been experienced, there is no doubt a very large proportion of the available fat stock in the country would have found its way to South Africa in various forms instead of dying on the runs.

The numbers of cattle and sheep slaughtered for profit as given in a previous statement was for 1899, 640,898 cattle, and 1,497,546 sheep (live animals exported being excluded); of these 386,466 cattle and 479,818 sheep were treated at the various meatworks, being either preserved, frozen, or boiled down. Carcasses used for making extract are included in those boiled down.

These figures show a considerable advance on those for the previous years, but not nearly what they would have done had the season been a good one.

In cattle, there were 140,815 preserved during 1899 against 65,966 head in 1898, also 117,668 head frozen in 1899 against 112,940 head in 1898, and 127,983 boiled down in 1899 against 147,528 head in 1898.

In sheep there were 144,345 preserved in 1899 against 69,006 in 1898, also 119,964 frozen in 1899 against 61,258 in 1898, and 215,509 boiled down in 1899 against 146,845 in 1898.

Full particulars under this head are furnished in the Appendix, Table VII.; also the numbers of stock slaughtered for food in the principal towns in the Colony in Table IX.

Forty-seven establishments were in active operation in 1899, for slaughter and treatment of animal products—viz., thirteen meatworks, twenty-five boiling down, and nine bacon factories; eleven establishments, whose output is principally extract of meat, being included with the boiling down. None of the places are counted twice this year, but are allotted to the division to which they belong without being counted again in another branch.

The number of hands employed in 1899 was 3,156, against 2,876 in 1898.

The following table gives the values and outputs of each class of establishments for 1899:—

No. of Establishments.	Kind of Establishments.	No. of Hands Employed.	Value of Machinery and Plant.	Value of Land and Premises.	Value of Output.
9	Bacon Curing...	185	£13,686	£18,233	£136,244
25	* Boiling Down	725	110,773	73,778	526,489
13	Meat Preserving	2,246	192,415	351,188	1,607,613
47		3,156	316,874	443,201	2,270,346

*Includes eleven establishments the output of which is principally extract, &c.

These establishments are equal to a much larger output than obtained in 1899, when many were closed down for some months.

EXTRACT, TALLOW, &c.

The quantity of extract produced in 1899 was 1,925,193 lb., against 1,593,285 lb. in 1898, showing a great advance on any previous year.

The quantity of tallow produced in 1899 was 19,165 tons, against 13,609 tons for 1898.

Lard for 1899 was returned at 222,460 lb., as against 216,194 lb. for 1898.

BY-PRODUCTS.

Edible fats for 1899 were returned at 985,121 lb., against 1,083,523 lb. for 1898.

The weight and value of manure has increased for 1899 by 2,275 tons and £20,313 in value; hides, by 69,996 in number and £110,756; skins increased in 1899 by £57,280; bones, by £1,678; hoofs and horns, by £5,204; hair, by £488; oil was smaller in quantity, and decreased in value by £68.

The total for all by-products for 1899 was £526,928, against £332,303 for 1898.

Full particulars respecting the by-products appear in the Appendix, Table VIII.

WOOL.

Wool, as will be seen by the figures given below, and as might naturally be expected in view of the severity of the season just passed, has decreased considerably in quantity exported, the falling off in weight of that produced in the Colony being 15,692,976 lb. as compared with that of 1898. It may be, as frequently obtains in times of drought, that some of the wool, at all events, remains on the stations, teams not being able to travel through want of water on the roads; but of this I have no certain information. The quantity of wool produced elsewhere, and sent for shipment through this Colony, shows an increase for last year, as compared with the previous one, of 17,352 lb.

When we take values, however, we find that, although the weight of wool exported in 1899 is less, there is a considerable increase in value over that exported during the previous year, the increase in the value of the wool produced in the Colony being £372,175 for 1899 as compared with 1898.

The respective average values of wool given by the exports during the two years are as under—

1899.

Greasy wool averaged 9d. per lb.
Clean „ „ 1s. 4d. „

1898.

Greasy wool averaged 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb.
Clean „ „ 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. „

There is also an increase in the value of the wool brought here for shipment, and shown as foreign. The following is a statement showing quantities and value for 1899 as compared with the previous year:—

Exports.	QUANTITY.			VALUE.		
	Produce of the Colony. Lb.	Foreign. Lb.	Total. Lb.	Produce of the Colony. £	Foreign. £	Total. £
Wool, clean ...	24,482,583	3,981	24,486,564	1,629,538	200	1,629,738
„ greasy ...	46,413,525	238,426	46,651,951	1,752,099	8,942	1,761,041
Total, 1899 ..	70,896,108	242,407	71,138,515	3,381,637	9,142	3,390,779
„ 1898 ...	86,589,084	225,055	86,814,139	3,009,462	8,636	3,018,098
Increase in 1899 ...	...	17,352	...	£372,175	506	372,681
Decrease in 1899	15,692,976	...	15,675,624	...	...	...

The consumption of wool in Queensland for 1899 is returned at 192,000 lb., a decrease of 308,000 lb. as compared with the previous year. It is a matter of great regret that when the markets presented the most favourable prospects that they have done for years, the unpropitious character of the seasons should prevent Queensland profiting by the circumstance more fully.

DAIRYING.

A considerable advance has been made in the amount of dairying done in Queensland during the past year, the quantity of butter produced in 1899 being, from all classes of makers, 8,462,595 lb., nearly 3,778 tons, against 6,437,256 lb. in the preceding year.

From the return given below it will be seen that, whilst establishments handling both cream and butter number 4,740 for 1899, being two less than in the previous year, those handling cream only have increased from 450 in 1898 to 930 in 1899. The quantities of both milk dealt with and cream produced are considerably larger in 1899 than in the previous year.

The central factories in 1899 produced 5,796,131 lb. of butter against 3,795,315 in 1898, whilst there are substantial increases in the quantity of butter made by persons having separators and making over 2,000 lb. each, as well as by those making under that quantity. The quantity of butter made by hand has fallen off, probably in consequence of greater facilities for disposing of the cream, and thus saving the trouble of making it up into butter whilst receiving as good returns from the factory.

The undermentioned table gives the returns of butter made in all the important centres of the Colony.

B.

DISTRICT.	ESTABLISHMENTS HANDLING		BUTTER.						CHEESE.		
	Cream Only.	Cream and Butter.	*Milk dealt with.	*Cream Produced.	Central Factories.	Made by Persons Having Separators.	Made from Hand- skimmed Cream.	Total.	Producers.	Milk.	Cheese.
						Making over 2,000 lb. each.					
Allora ...	8	188	Gallons. 494,468	Lb. 312,137	Lb. 31,402	Lb. ...	Lb. 41,513	Lb. 72,915	7	Gallons. 31,067	Lb. 29,231
Beaudesert ...	86	90	1,111,263	836,013	...	46,704	9,810	22,357	2	65,900	62,900
Brisbane ...	17	283	781,408	505,928	2,224,254	70,507	32,850	81,579	1	14,000	12,000
Bundaberg ...	48	155	645,403	414,405	394,596	4,400	3,078	46,165	4	14,979	15,860
Caboolture ...	15	50	400,961	314,699	...	35,555	4,762	16,124	1	3,640	3,610
Crow's Nest ...	2	137	127,992	91,810	...	5,336	1,784	36,340	17	58,051	58,051
Dalby ...	5	60	256,826	178,500	...	...	300	11,606	7	66,061	65,054
Dugandan ...	21	62	762,039	609,162	...	3,650	...	11,984	13	6,496	6,496
Esk ...	30	124	548,474	313,897	...	11,050	8,611	39,409	14	154,100	159,143
Gatton ...	167	179	1,073,502	822,464	...	39,364	3,088	30,895	2	13,925	13,925
Gympie ...	98	65	943,703	653,850	178,672	25,300	29,835	6,781	8	12,604	12,604
Harrisville ...	34	139	1,043,537	724,689	...	14,887	5,081	36,704	8	126,790	126,790
Highfields ...	11	306	302,950	219,871	...	6,149	520	87,792	19	93,179	100,574
Ipswich ...	43	101	1,050,537	834,356	390,570	91,100	15,132	33,080	1	960	960
Laidley ...	23	34	1,088,405	725,132	...	...	...	14,208	1	48	48
Logan ...	72	215	726,779	528,196	14,173	46,345	25,638	43,336	129,492	...	...
Marburg ...	24	29	2,445,527	1,951,457	127,750	9,300	1,400	9,041	147,491	1	6,000
Maroochy ...	6	176	193,618	132,434	...	22,124	6,242	36,461	64,827	7	7,067
Maryborough ...	14	134	414,680	306,688	...	14,559	...	85,180	99,739	3	334
Nerang ...	59	58	710,040	542,294	...	12,092	8,250	15,004	35,346	3	9,210
Redcliffe ...	5	117	1,031,798	721,163	190,780	111,925	23,612	48,430	374,747	7	32,711
Rockhampton ...	161	527,070	356,952	...	38,008	11,913	14,267	191,188	11	12,664	10,626
Rosewood ...	16	18	1,145,968	852,813	...	17,815	2,690	7,740	28,245	1	60
South Brisbane ...	9	90	285,866	197,141	1,194,359	17,860	7,250	45,885	1,265,354	...	...
Tiaro ...	52	165	988,367	620,190	40,572	12,370	7,090	63,035	123,067	34	128,111
Toowoomba ...	34	333	1,117,138	847,364	1,009,003	101,803	2,356	118,725	1,231,887	12	608,232
Warwick ...	12	242	742,112	530,823	...	25,915	3,810	66,990	96,715	11	403,281
Woodford ...	5	21	504,005	276,608	...	18,928	...	13,223	32,151	3	15,795
All other Districts ...	14	1,008	1,474,996	952,599	...	123,722	52,320	261,429	437,471	23	25,415
Total ... 1899	930	4,740	22,934,432	16,373,635	5,796,131	926,759	267,422	1,472,283	8,462,595	221	1,911,214
Total ... 1898	450	4,742	19,236,973	7,351,726	3,795,315	794,619	212,668	1,634,654	6,437,256	234	1,772,089

* N.B.—The quantities of milk and cream in any district bear but little relation to the butter made in that district, as much of the milk and cream is conveyed elsewhere than the place of production for manufacture.

The greatest dairying centre is Marburg, where both milk and cream are produced in more than twice the quantity and weight returned from any other district, although the amount of butter is below that of several other centres, both milk and cream being sent in large quantities to factories in other districts to be made into butter.

The results of averages of the whole Colony are as follow:—

It takes 1.41 gallons of milk to produce 1 lb. cream.
" 1.93 lb. cream " " 1 " butter.
" 2.71 gallons milk " " 1 " butter.

The average of the lastnamed was 0.28 less than the results obtained in 1898, but whether this is due to better feed, better cattle, or a more accurate record of quantities, I am unable to say.

It must not be understood that the butter made in any of the places mentioned is necessarily produced from the milk or cream in the adjoining columns, as frequently milk or cream produced in one district is sent to a butter factory in another district for manufacture. Thus Brisbane receives supplies of both milk and cream from several of the surrounding districts to be made into butter at one or other of the city factories, cream being brought even from Toowoomba.

Ticks, which have been steadily working southward, have doubtless interfered with the expansion of dairying, but as the fears respecting the deadly character of a tick invasion give way to confidence in being able to cope with the evil, we shall doubtless see a large impetus given to this industry.

The expansion in Queensland is not nearly so great as that felt in either New South Wales or Victoria, as the export of butter has now assumed large dimensions in both these colonies, being for Victoria 36,254,269 lb., value £1,404,830, and New South Wales 7,987,664 lb., value £347,262.

The export of butter from Queensland for 1899 was 1,159,255 lb., value £49,517, as against 976,463 lb., value £37,586, for 1898, being an increase of 182,792 lb., value £11,931.

Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining regular facilities for shipment at frequent intervals, but arrangements were made by the Department of Agriculture to meet this difficulty.

The number of butter factories which have obtained advances from the Meat and Dairy Fund up to the end of 1899 was 7, and the total advances £5,877 1s. 3d.; the amount owing on the 31st December, 1899, being £2,849 17s. 10d., about half the amount borrowed having been repaid.

Sixteen creameries had obtained advances amounting to £1,880 7s. 5d., the amount owing on the 31st December, 1899, including interest, being £1,345.

Whilst hand separators used by the individual effect great saving of time and enable farmers to dispose of their cream easily, they are by no means a boon to the butter factory, since cream is sometimes sent to the factory, of uncertain age and in different stages of development, which is stated to interfere considerably with the production of the best class of butter, and renders the "making" less certain in its results. With greater quantities of milk and cream this objection will probably disappear.

One great feature is the necessity that exists for culling the cows and keeping only the best. Whilst the cattle are of a nondescript order and any bull is deemed good enough, little progress will be made. Evidences of improvements in dairying breeds amongst the milking cattle are to be seen now, and the efforts to secure better milking strains will soon make themselves felt in the herds.

Cultivation of food to carry cattle over dry times and to supplement the natural pastures is now recognised as a necessity in dairying, but this idea is capable of great expansion and has to be carried into effect to a greater extent, as the fencing in of paddocks leaves less and less of commonage on which to graze cattle free. Cultivated grasses, ensilage, hay and root crops will all find their place to a greater extent than at present as this industry expands. The most suitable places for dairying in Queensland will soon assimilate in their conditions to those now prevailing in the south coast districts of New South Wales.

CHEESE.

This branch of the dairying industry has not made very great progress in Queensland during the past year, the number of producers having fallen from 234 in 1898 to 221 in 1899.

The quantity of milk used in cheese-making has increased from 1,772,089 gallons in 1898 to 1,911,214 gallons in 1899, whilst the amount of cheese produced has increased from 1,843,803 lb. in 1898 to 1,910,300 in 1899.

The greatest cheese-producing centre is Toowoomba with 614,745 lb., followed by Warwick with 395,001 lb. Esk comes next with 159,143 lb., Tiaro with 130,275 lb., and Harrisville 126,790 lb.

The table showing cheese produced, &c., is incorporated with the butter table, and will be found in the preceding article (Table B).

It will also be seen that it takes, as nearly as possible, 1 gallon of milk to make 1 lb. of cheese as an average throughout the Colony.

Reference to Customs tables will show that the importation and exportation of cheese have both declined during 1899 as compared with 1898, and in almost equal quantities—viz., imports are less by £572 and exports by £485.

The export of cheese in 1899 was 11,358 lb., of the value of £250.

This would point to an increasing excellence in Queensland cheese, allowing it to take the place of the imported.

The consumption of cheese in Queensland is about 4 lb. per annum for each inhabitant.

BACON.

With a large increase in the number of pigs in the Colony for 1899 as against the previous year, it follows that there would be a greater number killed for profit, and accordingly we find the number of pigs returned as slaughtered for 1899 to be 101,704 as against 85,482 for 1898. These figures do not by any means give the total number of pigs slaughtered in the Colony, but were collected on a similar basis to the collections of previous years, and include pigs killed at factories and by farmers, but not those killed by butchers. Next year I hope to be able to show the latter as well.

The quantity of fresh pork is greater for the past year, being 773,701 lb. against 674,271 lb. for the previous year. Whilst salt pork is slightly less, the quantity of bacon and ham produced has increased in 1899 by 174,753 lb. as compared with the previous year.

The table given under shows the numbers and quantities for certain Petty Sessions District, with comparative totals for the two years 1898 and 1899:—

Ba.

Petty Sessions District.	Pigs Slaughtered.	Fresh Pork.	Salt Pork.	Bacon and Hams.
	Number.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Allora	343	2,413	9,682	29,854
Beaudesert	333	785	820	35,040
Biggenden	239	12,785	450	12,478
Brisbane	51,464	81,840	14,130	4,045,800
Bundaberg	516	7,583	5,459	46,664
Crow's Nest	219	330	1,190	29,390
Esk	305	1,091	3,441	37,164
Gatton	593	3,400	8,799	63,572
Gympie	767	24,509	6,076	42,371
Harrisville	872	1,875	8,022	64,508
Highfields	424	435	225	54,131
Ipswich	942	39,781	4,237	21,926
Killarney	206	1,144	310	25,753
Laidley	483	3,125	5,680	66,310
Logan	1,327	52,692	20,797	55,795
Marburg	308	3,385	1,400	45,539
Maroochy	271	6,414	2,677	26,702
Maryborough	1,803	28,685	11,327	142,988
Nanango	433	2,007	80	38,459
Rockhampton	3,759	60,078	11,879	75,045
Roma	311	3,490	780	33,915
South Brisbane	15,679	28,605	530	1,193,015
Tiaro	972	64,465	4,530	45,725
Toowoomba	5,162	3,380	6,160	529,587
Warwick	1,302	66,754	2,700	80,682
All Other Districts	12,671	272,650	70,220	305,397
Total, 1899	101,704	773,701	201,601	7,147,760
,, 1898	85,482	674,271	204,630	6,973,007

The quantity and value of bacon and ham imported and exported during 1899 is less than that of 1898. The following table contrasts the years 1898 and 1899:—

		Imports.		Exports.	
		lb.	£	lb.	£
1899	Pork ...	729	15	12,081	223
	Bacon and hams	15,491	597	1,028,060	31,090
	Total	16,220	£612	1,040,141	£31,313
1898	Pork ...	352	8	10,405	250
	Bacon and hams	24,693	899	1,097,157	32,033
	Total	25,045	£907	1,107,562	£32,283

The conversion of pork into bacon and ham has, through the agency of artificially-produced cold, established pig-keeping on a scale much larger than it could possibly have attained by any other means. With the increase of dairying, a large food product in the shape of skimmed milk at once became available. No better food can be found for pig-rearing than this, and, supplemented by farm products with grain for fattening, the best quality of bacon can be produced.

The bacon and ham now produced in Queensland is of first-class quality, and although importations of this food stuff have not wholly ceased, they are insignificant in quantity and value compared with what is exported.

As dairying and pig-keeping seem to be kindred industries and run together, an expansion of the former in this Colony is almost certain to be accompanied by a greater number of pigs being kept. Denmark, which now provides Great Britain with a great amount of dairy produce, butter, &c., every year, also contributes very largely to the supply of pigs.

New South Wales became an exporter of bacon and ham first in 1898, having up to that year been a large importer. New South Wales exports of bacon and hams for 1899 were 1,371,091 lb., value £40,514.

Victoria is also an exporter of bacon and ham, the quantity so dealt with in 1899 being 1,218,839 lb., value £38,787.

POULTRY.

A table showing the poultry in the Colony has not been compiled hitherto, and is now, to some extent, imperfect, since it includes only the poultry of farmers and others who furnish agricultural returns, and although this includes probably by far the largest number in most of the classes, yet, as it does not include the birds owned by all those persons who do not furnish agricultural returns, it necessarily does not include the very large numbers kept in towns and their suburbs.

Similarly, eggs from fowls not appearing in the tables are not included, so that in both the poultry (especially fowls) and eggs, the numbers do not represent the total number in or produced in the Colony.

Allowing for the very large percentage of city, township, and suburban households who keep fowls, I am of opinion that the true number in the Colony would nearly double the number shown on the table, whilst ducks, geese, and turkeys would not be increased to anything like a similar extent.

Poultry-farming is practised by a comparatively limited number of persons in Queensland, and on these places, as a rule, more attention is given to the production of stud birds, or sittings of eggs for sale, than to the production of eggs for commercial trade. As a rule, the number of birds kept on these places is not large, and I am not aware of any establishments where large numbers of poultry are kept.

The experience of many persons is, that when kept in limited numbers and well fed, poultry are freer from disease and give better returns than where large numbers are kept in one place.

Ducks are probably the most profitable to keep for eating, as they are less liable to disease than fowls, mature earlier, and give a better return in flesh for food given than do chickens.

Geese and turkeys do better on farms, or where they have considerable range and plenty of insect life. The latter especially are extremely useful in this respect.

Poultry are kept and seem to thrive in every part of the Colony:—

B b.

Petty Sessions District.	Fowls.	Ducks.	Geese.	Turkeys.	Other.	Eggs.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Doz.
Allora	14,253	225	213	546	50	78,543
Brisbane	18,320	1,995	180	67	32	72,970
Bundaberg	12,199	810	128	222	6	40,248
Cairns	14,995	1,141	81	97	39	43,145
Childers	7,892	465	98	9	27	35,333
Dugandan	24,035	873	607	361	...	95,360
Esk	11,820	691	570	756	47	58,282
Gatton	27,603	1,015	1,237	507	126	89,408
Gympie	7,619	227	113	115	...	29,789
Harrisville	14,737	869	208	280	35	61,962
Highfields	15,156	240	432	57	...	61,125
Ipswich	9,900	517	140	237	2	39,092
Laidley	18,853	1,096	1,291	270	12	69,456
Logan	14,394	1,138	556	40	17	65,916
Mackay	14,855	880	133	288	38	56,843
Marburg	16,839	929	920	117	...	47,447
Maroochy	6,811	270	42	5	...	36,309
Maryborough	8,179	288	97	16	24	31,210
Nerang	6,799	354	92	112	5	25,261
Redcliffe	12,428	500	142	29	37	50,767
Rosewood	12,604	981	388	770	30	54,401
Rockhampton	18,319	1,585	199	358	36	75,532
South Brisbane	8,904	968	102	51	...	29,021
Tiaro	8,845	222	134	149	99	35,001
Toowoomba	36,853	539	375	766	29	106,432
Warwick	23,445	1,079	373	1,413	8	71,796
All other districts	117,083	5,064	1,926	3,199	495	140,462
	502,840	24,961	10,777	10,837	1,194	1,601,111

HONEY.

Although a greater number of hives and honey produced are returned for 1899 as against 1898, the increase—viz., 1,798—is not large, nor is the increase in yield—4,541 lb., or about 2 tons—great, whilst the yield of honey per hive has fallen to 42 lb. as against an average of 46 lb. for 1898 and 48 lb. for 1897.

Bee-keeping may be looked upon as one of the neglected industries, for the outlay in cash involved in this pursuit is not large, and the work connected with it is light. It does not appear to have taken hold of the suburban and rural population in a manner that can be seen, say, in England, where each cottage in the country has a few hives. Persons who have gone into it as a business do not appear to have been successful in suiting the popular taste either in the article itself, or in getting it up, or laying it before the public, for evidently there is not a keen demand for it on the part of the Queensland public, nor does it, so far, pay to export.

Although bees do all their own work of gathering and storing the honey, yet they require a considerable amount of attention to make and keep them profitable, and a good deal depends on the locality chosen.

A table is given below showing the districts in which more than 130 hives are kept, the number of hives, yield, and average yield per hive:—

B c.

District.	No. of Hives.	Honey.	Average per Hive.	Wax.	District.	No. of Hives.	Honey.	Average per Hive.	Wax.	
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.		lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	
Beaudesert	302	9,298	31	250	Mackay	...	138	8,620	62	380
Brisbane	1,499	80,623	54	1,425	Marburg	...	693	12,064	17	866
Bundaberg	351	7,470	21	676	Maroochy	...	1,163	81,158	70	1,324
Caboolture	1,305	50,909	39	2,025	Maryborough	...	749	21,318	28	588
Charters Towers	587	12,096	20	184	Nerang	...	572	36,251	63	649
Clermont	168	6,196	37	206	Redcliffe	...	533	24,816	46	390
Cleveland	179	5,894	33	224	Rockhampton	...	1,068	101,440	95	1,785
Cook	360	18,135	50	330	Rosewood	...	464	11,200	24	384
Crow's Nest	312	17,456	56	295	South Brisbane	...	826	36,303	44	1,182
Dugandan	346	3,085	81	168	Stanthorpe	...	173	4,718	27	80
Esk	330	17,328	52	494	Tiaro	...	274	5,992	22	216
Gatton	380	12,128	32	183	Toowoomba	...	362	9,891	27	156
Gayndah	205	3,560	17	210	Warwick	...	600	27,918	46	341
Goodna	528	22,850	43	220	Woodford	...	220	11,536	52	407
Gympie	475	17,286	36	1,191	All Other Districts	...	978	17,127	19	890
Harrisville	353	6,208	18	334						
Herberton	198	6,392	32	22	Total for 1899	...	20,165	852,586	42	22,621
Highfields	133	6,965	52	50	Total for 1898	...	18,367	852,415	46	...
Ipswich	462	17,580	38	907	Increase for 1899	...	1,798	171	...	...
Killarney	850	44,727	53	680	Decrease for 1899	...	...	4	...	...
Laidley	544	20,649	38	620						
Logan	1,485	55,389	37	2,289						

From this it will be seen that the yield per hive ranges from 17 lb. each at Marburg and Gayndah to 95 lb. per hive in Rockhampton.

Perhaps some explanation of the apparently diminishing yield per hive may be that, in some instances, no honey has been gathered from some of the hives. Some apiarists direct their attention more to the production of hives of bees for sale, or to increase their numbers and queen-rearing, than to honey, and in those cases the number of hives would be large, and the yield of honey small, so affecting the average.

The greatest number of hives is in the Brisbane district (1,499), followed by Logan (1,485) and Caboolture (1,305).

The greatest weight of honey in any district is returned from Rockhampton, 101,440 lb., followed by Maroochy 81,158 lb., and Brisbane 80,623 lb.

Although honey is produced in Queensland in excess of the local requirements, importations have not altogether ceased, the quantity imported for 1899 being 1,584 lb., valued £36.

Exportations of honey for 1898 and 1899 were as under:—

		Quantity.		Value.
Exported 1899 ...	...	129,936 lb.	...	£1,293
" 1898 ...	...	203,794 lb.	...	£2,294

Perhaps some explanation of the want of appreciation of honey may be found in the difference between the wholesale and retail prices, for, whilst good honey may be bought in wholesale quantities at 1½d. or 1½d. per lb., the usual price retail in pound or two-pound tins is 6d. per lb.

Queensland is a splendid country for bees, since nearly all its forest trees flower and give large supplies of honey and pollen, and the winters are so mild that the bees are not compelled to remain in the hives and consume their own stores as in colder climates. The supply of honey which the Colony could produce if the industry were shown to be profitable is practically unlimited.

Given a market at a fair price, and the industry is capable of indefinite extension.

The weight of wax is also given, totalling 22,621 lb., or 10 tons 1 cwt. 3 qr. and 25 lb. This is largely used by saddlers and others, and, although not so profitable as honey to the apiarist, forms a by-product of considerable relative value.

In the apiaries having all the modern appliances much of the wax is, after being clarified, made up into "foundations" and put into the hives for the bees to work into new comb, and is of great advantage when flowers are plentiful, and enables the greatest advantage to be taken of the bees' labour in honey-gathering at the best time. The bees in a strong hive will convert several sheets of foundation wax into honeycombs and fill them with honey in far less time than it would take them to make a single comb. It is stated to take about 15 lb. of honey to produce 1 lb. of wax.

TOTAL EXTENT OF LAND UNDER CROP.

The total area of land under crop has increased considerably during the past year, being 420,746 acres against 363,254 acres for 1898, being an increase of 57,492 acres. This is not taking into account areas from which no crops have been obtained, of which fallow land there was for last year an area of 34,899 acres. The total area of cultivated land in Queensland—*i.e.*, both yielding crops and fallow—was 455,645 acres, being a substantial increase of 46,368 acres over and above that of 1898.

In 1898 there was 11·2 per cent. of the total extent of land under cultivation returned as fallow land—*i.e.*, either where the crop had utterly failed, and the land not put under another crop, or resting; whilst in 1899 there was only 7·7 per cent. of the total area under cultivation so returned, being a smaller area for 1899 both actually and relatively than was returned under the heading of "fallowed" for the former year.

Taking the increase under crop of 57,492 acres, it is found that this area is made up principally by increases in area cultivated for the following crops:—Wheat, 6,308 acres; oats, 443 acres; barley, malting, 4,058 acres; barley, other, 472 acres; maize, 7,654 acres; English potatoes, 2,805 acres; sweet potatoes, 223 acres; pumpkins, 2,563 acres; tobacco, 128 acres; coffee, 63 acres; hay, 23,676 acres; green fodder, 8,534 acres; vines (bearing), 19 acres; bananas, 538 acres; oranges, 52 acres; other crops, 899 acres; orchards and gardens, 260 acres; whilst reductions in areas for the year have taken place in rye, 101 acres; rice, 544 acres; sugar-cane, 355 acres; arrowroot, 24 acres; non-bearing vines, 36 acres; and pineapples, 136 acres.

Owing to an unfavourable season, frost, and other causes, the yield in many lines has been below what was expected—notably, sugar was 40,445 tons below the yield for 1898; maize, 286,883 bushels; rice, 28,858 bushels; and very large shortages in fruits; grapes, bananas, pineapples, and oranges. The shortages explain to some extent the increases in importations referred to in detail under the heading of "Imports of Foodstuffs."

A detailed list showing the value of importations of the different classes of agricultural produce is given below for the last five years:—

C.

Value of—	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
	£	£	£	£	£
Grain, &c., and Various Products thereof	453,627	681,161	649,253	645,426	640,765
Fruit	84,652	100,410	121,843	119,580	150,130
Vegetables	51,413	109,939	88,562	100,473	102,818
Other Products of Agriculture	102,775	109,488	161,549	168,980	163,698
	692,467	1,000,998	1,021,207	1,034,459	1,057,411

Increase value in 1899 over 1898, £22,952.

Tables are given in the Appendix containing detailed information as to extent of land under each variety of crop, yield, &c., and including the fullest particulars obtainable with respect to each.

FOODSTUFFS IMPORTED.

A table has been prepared, and is given below, showing the quantities and values of different articles used for food, which were imported into and exported from Queensland for the past year. This list contains names of the same articles that appeared in a similar list furnished in my Report last year, so as to make the two years comparable, and only contains articles which are produced, or can be produced, in this Colony. It serves to show the amount of money sent out of the Colony last year for foodstuffs which can be produced within it:—

Ca.

Items.	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.		NET IMPORTS. (Where Imports exceed Exports).	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Arrowroot	13,262 lb.	171	497,115 lb.	4,228	...	...
Bacon and Hams	15,491 "	597	1,028,060	31,090	...	...
Barley	57,934 bushls.	10,959	1 bushl.	1	57,933 bushls.	10,958
(Pearl)	37,544 lb.	203	...	...	37,544 lb.	203
Butter	26,480 "	1,166	1,159,255 lb.	49,517	...	...
Cheese	69,332 "	1,833	11,358	250	57,974 lb.	1,583
Coffee	217,602 "	8,259	8,725 "	290	208,877 "	7,969
Hay	1,293 tons	6,252	286 tons	907	1,007 tons	5,345
Jams and Jellies	244,428 lb.	4,997	42,766 lb.	713	201,662 lb.	4,284
Maize	501,179 bushls.	89,256	146 bushls.	30	501,033 bushls.	89,226
Oatmeal, &c.	476 tons	9,401	2 tons	59	474 tons	9,342
Oats	186,905 bushls.	22,835	572 bushls.	91	186,333 bushls.	22,744
(Crushed)	6,985 pkgs.	7,729	...	...	6,985 pkgs.	7,729
Onions	3,559 tons	20,281	9 tons	54	3,550 tons	20,227
Pork	729 lb.	15	12,081 lb.	223	...	...
Potatoes	15,128 tons	68,205	76 tons	260	15,052 tons	67,945
Rice	9,542,559 lb.	51,425	258,626 lb.	1,326	9,283,933 lb.	50,099
Rye	606 bushls.	86	...	...	606 bushls.	86
Wheat	652,042 "	102,920	700 bushls.	106	651,342 "	102,814
Green Fruit	293,470 pkgs.	80,097	1,001,441 pkgs.	93,291	...	...
Flour	33,533 tons	274,853	28 tons	310	33,505 tons	274,543
Malt	127,469 bushls.	44,148	58 bushls.	22	127,411 bushls.	44,126
Milk (Preserved)	1,360,333 lb.	25,948	31,983 lb.	623	1,328,350 lb.	25,325
Total	...	831,546	...	183,391	...	744,548

The total value of imported articles on this list for 1899 amounts to £831,546 as against £839,439 for 1898, so that £7,923 less has been sent out of the Colony in payment for these goods than was the case during the previous year.

Some of the principal articles which have been imported in larger quantities in 1899 than in the previous year are—Barley, which exceeded the importations of 1898 by 41,101 bushels, valued £7,121; hay, £3,258; maize, £28,794; oats, £12,537; wheat, £38,075; green fruit, £11,001; flour, 1,209 tons, although costing £98,998 less than in 1898; preserved milk, £1,947; malt, 2,342 bushels more, although costing £1,165 less.

Reductions in the quantities imported during 1899 as compared with 1898 are shown to be—Butter, £341; cheese, £572; jams, £779; oatmeal, &c., £7,738; onions, £2,771; potatoes, £1,801 in value, although nearly 50 per cent. more in quantity were imported.

It will thus be seen that there has been a very large increase in the importations of many of these lines in 1899 as compared with 1898, and that the reduction in the total is caused principally by the lower price of flour, on which, whilst a larger quantity was purchased, the reduction in price saved nearly £100,000 to the Colony, so that the saving of nearly £8,000 on the food bill of the Colony on the articles mentioned is not due to local production having displaced the imports, but wholly to the reduction in price of some of the items purchased.

AREAS OF FARMS.

The total number of farms under cultivation has increased for the past year, being 442 more in 1899 than was recorded in 1898, the actual numbers being 13,998 farms for 1899 as against 13,556 for 1898. An increase of 46,358 acres is returned in the past year, the areas being 455,645 acres under cultivation for 1899 as against 409,287 acres for 1898. The table given below shows the number of each size of holding in groups, and enables the progress in each year for the past seven years to be seen.

It will be seen that the number of holdings under 5 acres was less than at any other period shown in the table, whilst there has been an advance in each of the other classes. The increase in the total area under cultivation is most satisfactory, amounting as it does to 11.3 per cent. on the area returned at the end of 1898. The increase was greatest in the group of areas of upwards of 50 acres, being 303. There were 101 more in the class from 20 to 50 acres compared with 1898, and 231 more in the 5 to 20 acres. It is to be hoped that the present year will give better results to our farming population than the past two years have done:—

D.

Year.	NUMBER OF CULTIVATED AREAS IN EACH GROUP.					TOTAL AREA CULTIVATED IN EACH GROUP.				
	5 acres and under.	Above 5 acres and not exceeding 20.	Above 20 acres and not exceeding 50.	Above 50 acres.	Total.	5 acres and under.	Above 5 acres and not exceeding 20.	Above 20 acres and not exceeding 50.	Above 50 acres.	Total.
1893 ...	2,711	4,616	2,724	890	10,941	6,342	50,901	80,343	114,489	252,075
1894 ...	3,052	4,707	2,910	1,039	11,708	8,197	55,863	90,596	129,896	284,552
1895 ...	2,993	4,844	3,132	1,069	12,038	8,138	57,970	96,843	136,327	299,278
1896 ...	2,922	5,011	3,560	1,333	12,826	8,269	60,660	110,402	157,444	336,775
1897 ...	2,847	4,938	3,770	1,803	13,358	8,604	60,902	118,363	198,390	386,259
1898 ...	2,892	4,832	4,032	1,800	13,556	7,840	58,717	128,294	214,436	409,287
1899 ...	2,699	5,063	4,133	2,103	13,998	7,750	60,845	131,876	255,174	455,645

The table appearing below shows the distribution of cultivation, and gives the number of owners and areas in each group for each Petty Sessions district where more than 3,000 acres are under cultivation. The standard last year was 1,000 acres, but it was found that a continuance of this area would unduly extend the list and give no less than 44 districts; accordingly the standard has been raised this year to 3,000 acres, and as a result the following districts, which appeared in last year's tables, are grouped with "All Other Districts":—Bowen, 2,744 acres; Gympie, 2,660 acres; Mitchell, 1,885 acres; Nanango, 2,151 acres; South Brisbane, 2,687 acres; Texas, 1,496 acres; and Yeulba, 2,069 acres.

The greatest increases in the areas under cultivation have taken place during the past year in the undermentioned districts:—Allora, increased by 10,757 acres; Toowoomba, by 10,415 acres; Warwick, by 9,583 acres; Dalby, by 3,822 acres; Rosewood, by 1,901 acres; Dugandan, by 1,735 acres; Killarney, by 1,706 acres; Roma, by 1,157 acres; and Ingham, by 1,099 acres; so that it will be seen that the bulk of the increases have taken place on the western portion of the Southern division, the three districts of Allora, Warwick, and Toowoomba contributing no less than 30,755 acres out of the total increase of 46,358 acres:—

Da.

Petty Sessions District.	ACRES UNDER CULTIVATION.									
	5 Acres and under.		Above 5 and not exceeding 20 Acres.		Above 20 and not exceeding 50 Acres.		Above 50 Acres.		Totals.	
	Owners.	Acres.	Owners.	Acres.	Owners.	Acres.	Owners.	Acres.	Owners.	Acres.
Allora	4	13	19	236	69	2,590	279	39,333	371	42,172
Ayr	2	7	7	102	34	1,285	31	7,335	74	8,729
Beaudesert	59	173	114	1,295	56	1,602	11	786	240	3,856
Brisbane	232	722	304	3,173	42	1,178	1	60	579	5,133
Bundaberg	32	101	110	1,446	160	5,294	113	18,542	415	25,383
Cairns	13	36	47	590	53	1,898	71	8,962	184	11,486
Childers	19	59	78	998	138	4,670	100	10,467	335	16,194
Crow's Nest	30	99	148	1,824	93	2,844	7	523	278	5,290
Dalby	25	91	103	1,228	82	2,651	46	6,015	256	9,985
Douglas	6	19	19	218	21	749	26	2,564	72	3,550
Dugandan	8	27	149	2,007	219	6,854	31	1,952	407	10,840
Esk	60	154	96	1,145	59	1,718	6	422	221	3,439
Gatton	48	289	211	2,977	285	8,873	51	4,131	595	16,270
Gin Gin	7	21	42	545	65	2,084	29	2,493	143	5,143
Harrisville	20	65	81	1,056	137	4,332	28	2,605	266	8,058
Herberton	24	68	38	473	25	777	20	1,861	107	3,179
Highfields	20	70	131	1,736	199	6,194	56	4,244	496	12,244
Ingham	12	30	39	496	44	1,582	80	9,986	175	12,094
Ipswich	42	117	104	1,273	58	1,764	7	541	211	3,695
Killarney	14	36	26	314	45	1,545	73	7,233	158	9,128
Laidley	14	48	90	1,312	239	7,793	64	5,114	407	14,267
Logan	78	220	254	2,984	66	1,796	6	359	404	5,359
Mackay	69	212	199	2,576	273	9,029	153	17,809	694	29,626
Marburg	16	47	141	1,920	192	5,629	15	1,152	364	8,748
Maroochy	129	359	185	1,884	35	1,018	...	...	349	3,261
Maryborough	104	303	141	1,575	41	1,255	2	173	288	3,306
Mourilyan	2	4	87	1,309	52	1,696	37	6,186	178	9,195
Nerang	29	59	70	840	63	1,953	18	1,602	180	4,454
Redcliffe	34	92	129	1,673	77	2,216	20	1,442	260	5,423
Rockhampton	128	313	146	1,603	60	1,869	10	988	344	4,773
Roma	27	86	70	879	72	2,346	57	5,202	226	8,513
Rosewood	29	83	106	1,346	128	4,028	20	1,167	283	6,624
Tiaro	54	138	102	1,171	76	2,323	11	1,037	243	4,669
Toowoomba	242	735	398	4,785	399	13,652	281	42,226	1,320	61,398
Warwick	39	148	101	1,324	159	5,316	261	32,905	560	39,693
All Other Districts	1,028	2,706	978	10,532	317	9,473	82	7,757	2,405	30,468
TOTALS	2,699	7,750	5,063	60,845	4,133	131,876	2,103	255,174	13,998	455,645

The table given below shows the centesimal increase or decrease in the number and area of each group of farms, a decrease being represented by the minus sign. The rate for the total number is double that of the preceding year:—

Db.

Group.	Centesimal Increase in Number of Farms.	Centesimal Increase in Area Cultivated.
5 acres and under	— 6.67	— 1.16
Above 5 and not exceeding 20 acres	4.78	3.62
Above 20 and not exceeding 50 acres	2.50	2.79
Above 50 acres	16.83	19.00
Total	3.26	11.33
	— Decrease.	

The table appearing below gives the mean size of farms of each group for the past five years:—

Dc.

	5 Acres and under.	5 to 20 Acres.	20 to 50 Acres.	50 Acres and Upwards.	Total.
1895	3	12	31	128	25
1896	3	12	31	118	26
1897	3	12	31	110	29
1898	3	12	32	119	30
1899	3	12	31	119	29

LABOUR AND MACHINERY ON FARMS.

In collecting figures for this return, every care has been taken to avoid repeating, in the table furnished below, the numbers of employer's family in the 3rd and 4th columns after their having been included in the 1st and 2nd columns.

E.

Petty Sessions District.	Employer and Family Actually Working on Farm.		Hands Employed.		Value of Machinery and Implements.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
Allora ...	621	211	172	24	37,135
Ayr ...	101	21	846	16	60,330
Brisbane ...	888	112	291	2	11,796
Bundaberg ...	516	177	1,330	29	72,492
Childers ...	421	4	1,349	20	36,088
Dalby ...	343	61	67	4	10,122
Dugandan ...	668	140	50	4	10,946
Gatton ...	924	249	131	11	24,662
Harrisville ...	445	214	72	9	11,192
Highfields ...	616	41	66	2	12,828
Killarney ...	228	23	50	2	10,044
Laidley ...	672	298	122	1	15,364
Mackay ...	968	40	2,262	62	90,843
Marburg ...	560	80	71	1	32,775
Maryborough ...	414	188	168	14	24,570
Mourilyan ...	174	3	1,118	56	13,355
Nerang ...	289	43	135	1	13,464
Rockhampton ...	549	142	411	29	35,802
Toowoomba ...	1,719	560	376	31	65,172
Warwick ...	808	245	306	29	46,450
All Other Districts ...	8,341	2,324	5,678	213	154,193
Total 1899 ...	20,259	5,176	15,071	560	789,623
Total 1898 ...	18,567	4,821	13,248	473	773,533

Compared with the figures of 1898, those now returned for 1899 show a satisfactory increase in both sexes in each of the two different classes into which they are divided.

The addition of the four columns gives the numbers of employers and such of their families who are old enough, and are actually employed in farm work, together with the hands, male and female, employed, and amount to 41,066 persons. In estimating the proportions of the population engaged in agriculture, however, the children and others dependent upon such persons must be allowed for, or a proportion taken upon all persons of working age. These figures cannot be taken out now, as the information is not available. After the census has been taken in March next, it will be interesting to ascertain how many persons out of the whole population are dependent upon agriculture for a livelihood, and the proportion they bear to the whole.

The value of machinery and implements on farms has increased during 1899 by £16,090, whilst the value of agricultural machinery imported into the Colony during 1899 was, according to Customs returns, £39,582, and for steam threshing machinery and steam ploughs £891, or a total of £40,473. This amount is exclusive of the value of implements, such as spades, forks, &c.

IRRIGATION.

My remarks on this subject in last year's Report were written when a considerable increase (over 50 per cent.) in the area previously irrigated had taken place.

Such increase has not only not been advanced upon during the past year, but such a diminution has taken place as to bring the area irrigated below that of any year since 1894.

At the same time, irrigation is not only advisable, but necessary, to successful cultivation, and is practised in many countries which would otherwise be quite unable to feed a redundant population.

Probably, to be thoroughly successful, the irrigation works must be on a larger scale, so that water may be copiously applied when desirable, with certainty as to its availability, and at the lowest possible cost through economy of pumping and absence of loss of water by properly protected water channels.

These would involve larger initial outlay than the ordinary farmer would be prepared to encounter, but if works of this class were carried out to serve considerable areas, the farmer would probably obtain the water at a less cost than pumping it himself from his own means of supply with less perfect machinery and means of distribution.

All the rich lands of the seaboard where sugar is cultivated have rivers of fresh water running through them, and the sugar centres of the north, where, probably, the need of irrigation is most pressing, are each of them copiously supplied by strongly running streams, the water of which at present is not utilised and is allowed to go to waste in the sea.

The area irrigated throughout the colony for each year, from 1891 to 1899, is as under:—

F.

Year.	Acres Irrigated.	Year.	Acres Irrigated.
1891 ...	3,869	1896 ...	6,395
1892 ...	3,840	1897 ...	6,647
1893 ...	5,287	1898 ...	9,648
1894 ...	5,846	1899 ...	6,311
1895 ...	6,447		

From this it will be seen that the area returned as irrigated for 1899—viz., 6,311 acres—is less than that for 1898 by 3,337 acres.

A table is appended showing the area of land irrigated during 1899 in each district, with the number of irrigators, source of supply, crops treated, &c., &c.

F a.
IRRIGATION.

Petty Sessions District in which Situated.	Number of Irrigators.	Acres Irrigated.	Original Source of Water Supply.	Means Employed for Procurement and Utilisation.	Crops Treated.	Remarks by Irrigator.
Ayr ...	25	4,825	Wells, creeks, and lagoons	Steam pumps, centrifugals, trenches, gravitation, flooding	Sugar-cane, maize, potatoes, general crops.	
Barcaldine ...	10	195	Alice River, artesian bores	Steam pumps, gravitation, drains	Wheat, oats, maize, and vegetables.	
Blackall ...	7	119	Barcoo River, artesian	Pumps, gravitation, trenches, pipes	Wheat, oats, maize, vines, vegetables	
Bowen ...	7	109	Euri Creek, wells ...	Steam and horse pumps, windmills, drains, and piping	Maize, fruit trees, vegetables.	
Brisbane ...	3	24	Creek, wells ...	Steam pump, underground pipes	Vegetables, fruit trees.	
Cape River ...	4	23	Cape River, well ...	Horse pumps, drains, and pipes	Fruit and vegetables.	
Charters Towers	7	28	Wells ...	Steam horse pumps, windmills, drains, piping, gravitation	Orange trees, vines, sorghum.	
Charleville ...	7	35	River and bore, artesian	Horse, steam pumps, gravitation, drains, &c.	Wheat, sorghum, cow-pea, fruit and vegetables	
Clermont ...	2	14	Wells ...	Horse pump, drains ...	Oranges, grapes, vegetables.	
Cleveland ...	2	5	Wells ...	Windmill, hose, drains ...	Oranges, general crops.	
Cloncurry ...	5	12	Well and bores ...	Horse pump, gravitation ...	Fruit and vegetables.	
Cook ...	11	45	Lagoons, springs, and creeks	Horse pumps, gravitation, drains, trenches	Rice, corn, potatoes, vegetables, fruit.	Water supply too dear; have to pay for water, so cannot use it.
Croydon ...	5	24	Creek ...	California pump, drains ...	Fruit trees, vegetables.	
Cunnamulla	8	126	Bore, artesian, Warrego River	Steam pump, gravitation ...	Wheat, vegetables, fruit, lucerne, and Johnston grass.	
Emerald ...	1	7	Wells ...	Horse pump, hose ...	Oranges, grapes.	
Etheridge ...	3	6	River, wells ...	Steam, horse, and American elevator, piping, gravitation	Vegetables and fruit trees.	
Gatton ...	1	4	Creek ...	Steam pump, 4-H.P. pipes ...	Fruit trees ...	Not a success, owing to hardness of water.
Gympie ...	1	14	Creek ...	Steam pump, 12-H.P. pipes ...	General crops.	
Herberton ...	3	7	Creek and springs	Pumping, gravitation, drains	Vegetables.	
Hughenden ...	10	151	Wells and river ...	Steam and horse pumps, drains	Maize, vines, oranges, and vegetables	Increasing area; will use steam next year.
Hungersford...	2	21	Artesian gravitation	Drains ...	Wheat, lucerne.	
Ingham ...	1	2	Creek ...	Windmill, hose ...	Vegetables.	
Isisford ...	4	6	Creek and river ...	Horse pump, gravitation ...	Vegetables, fruit trees ...	Usual station garden; failure through drought.
Longreach ...	8	17	Thomson River, lagoons	Steam, horse pumps, windmill	Fruit trees, vegetables.	
Mackay ...	3	93	Pioneer River, creek, wells	Steam, centrifugal pumps, windmill	Sugar-cane, fruit, vegetables.	
Maroochy ...	1	2	Waterholes ...	Steam pump, pipes ...	Strawberries ...	Seven tons from one and a-half acres.
Muttaburra...	4	23	Landsborough Creek, artesian	Steam, horse pumps, windmill, gravitation, drains	Oats, maize, wheat, lucerne, fruits, and vegetables.	
Palmer ...	1	3	Creek ...	Gravitation, drains ...	Fruit and sugar-cane.	
Ravenswood ...	2	6	Wells ...	Windmill, pumps, drains ...	Pumpkins, pineapples.	
Rockhampton	15	104	Fitzroy River, creeks, wells, lagoons	Steam, horse pumps, drains, piping, hose	Maize, lucerne, fruit trees, vegetables.	
Roma ...	2	22	Lagoon, creek ...	Steam pump, pipes, gravitation	Maize and vegetables ...	Fair crops. Water from Roma bore unsuitable for vegetables; runs into creek.
St. George ...	11	31	Balonne wells River,	Steam and horse pumps, windmill, flumes, drains, gravitation, pipes	Vegetables, fruit trees ...	Average crops.
Stanthorpe ...	4	13	Springs, Quartpot Creek	Pumps, gravitation, steam ...	Vegetables, fruit trees ...	Increased return.
South Brisbane	3	27	Bulimba Creek, springs	Steam, horse pumps, pipes, hose, gravitation	Vegetables, nursery, fruit trees	Plant only recently put down; all failures avoided; loss in dry seasons reduced to minimum.
Somerset ...	1	2	Wells ...	Windmill, drains ...	Fruit trees.	
Surat ...	1	12	Creek ...	Steam pump, drains ...	Wheat, panicum ...	Wheat sown on two acres after panicum.
Taroom ...	1	6	Dawson River ...	Windmill, force pumps, drains, spouting	Fruit trees.	
Thargo-mindah	6	15	Bulloo River, Toom-pine Creek	Horse, hand pumps, drains, flooding	Fruit and vegetables ...	Crops better than last year.
Thornborough	1	2	Wells ...	Windmill, pumps, pipes ...	Fruit, vegetables.	
Tiaro ...	2	6	Creek ...	Steam, hand pumps, hose pipes	Grapes, fruit trees.	
Townsville ...	15	125	Creeks, wells ...	Steam, horse pumps, windmills, drains, gravitation	Vegetables, fruit trees, vines, green crops, nurseries.	
Total ...	210	6,311				

Contrasting this return with that of the previous year, it will be seen that increases have taken place at Mackay (80 acres), Cunnamulla (66 acres), Cook (35 acres), Bowen (46 acres), and smaller areas at other places; whilst decreases are shown at Ayr (2,577 acres), Rockhampton (634 acres), and at several other places for much smaller areas.

At Ayr, which is the only district irrigating sugar-cane on a large scale, the decrease is most marked, and the sugar crop of the district only a little over one-half of that of 1898. Much of this loss was due to the frost, but as the year was a very dry one, some loss followed from want of water. Some of the farmers of the district mark their returns as "No water, no crop," clearly showing that in this district, whilst dry weather reduces the crop, without water supplied by irrigation there is no crop at all.

Esk, which in 1898 returned 225 acres irrigated, returns none for the past year, the plant not having been used.

Similarly, Toowoomba, which returned 125 acres in 1898 returns none in 1899.

The value of irrigation in the northern parts of the colony will be illustrated by reading the account of the method pursued in Java, which is given in my report on the sugar industry.

In Java, where a yield of about 4 tons of sugar to the acre is obtained, land is only placed under sugar in localities which can be irrigated, and the irrigation system is first laid out and the land planted afterwards.

The following table compares the area of land irrigated in each of the more important Petty Sessions Districts in the colony during the years 1898 and 1899:—

F b.

Petty Sessions District in which Situated.	Acres Irrigated, 1898.	Acres Irrigated, 1899.	Increase.		Decrease.
			Acres.	Acres.	
Ayr ...	7,402	4,825	...	...	2,577
Barcaldine ...	205	195	...	...	10
Blackall ...	103	119	16	16	
Bowen ...	63	109	46	46	
Brisbane ...	39	24	...	...	15
Cape River ...	...	23	23	23	
Charleville ...	50	35	..	..	15
Charters Towers ...	...	28	28	28	
Cook ...	...	45	45	45	
Croydon ...	...	24	24	24	
Cunnamulla ...	60	126	66	66	
Esk ...	225	...	..	..	225
Hughenden ...	132	151	19	19	
Hungerford ...	...	21	21	21	
Mackay ...	13	93	80	80	
Muttaburra ...	26	23	...	...	3
Rockhampton ...	738	104	...	...	634
Roma ...	...	22	22	22	
St. George ...	45	31	..	..	14
South Brisbane ...	...	27	27	27	
Surat ...	25	12	...	...	13
Toowoomba ...	125	...	...	...	125
Townsville ...	151	125	...	...	26
Other Districts ...	246	149	...	...	97
Total ...	9,648	6,311	417	...	3,754
Less Increase in Certain Districts			...	...	417
Net Decrease ...			...	...	3,337

Six places show that they use artesian water for irrigation purposes, and, in the absence of information to the contrary, it must be supposed that it is found suitable for the purpose.

Considering that in June, 1898, there were 356 artesian bores in the colony, each yielding upwards of 750,000 gallons of water per diem, besides a large number of others with smaller flow, it would seem that such water could be utilised for irrigation purposes, at all events for garden produce, to a much larger extent than at present.

The questions of subsoils and drainage form a large portion of the subject of irrigation, as also does the method of application of water to the trees or crops. With the experience of other countries to guide us, there would be no difficulty in obtaining expert advice on the subject whenever desired.

AVERAGE YIELDS.

A table is given below showing the average yield of each crop grown in the Colony during 1899, and contrasting that of 1898 therewith. Appendix Tables XII. and XIII. give the total area of land under cultivation and crop therefrom, and also Table XIV. gives the average produce per acre of the principal crops for the past ten years:—

G
AVERAGE YIELD PER ACRE OF CROPS.

Division.	Description.	GRAIN CROPS.						POTATOES.			SUGAR TO COTTON.			ARROW-ROOT (Tuber).			COFFEE.			PUMPKINS.			HAY OF ALL KINDS.			GRAPES.			BANANAS.			PINEAPPLES.					
		Wheat.	Oats.	Barley, Malting.	Barley, Other.	Maize.	Rice.	Rye.	English.	Sweet.	Tons.	Tons.	Lb.	Tons.	Lb.	Tons.	Lb.	Tons.	Lb.	Tons.	Lb.	Tons.	Lb.	Tons.	Lb.	Tons.	Lb.	Tons.	Lb.	Tons.	Lb.						
SOUTHERN																																					
	East of Main Range	15.10	14.43	17.32	17.58	20.64	16.06	11.52	3.27	5.55	1.74	...	10.86	...	265	4.60	2.52	2,450	1,440	382	562																
	West of Main Range	11.60	15.14	16.58	12.39	10.45	...	13.06	1.52	1.74	...	...	...	...	883	...	3.02	1.34	1,243	...	...	588												
	Total Southern	11.65	15.09	16.64	12.59	16.76	16.06	12.18	2.08	5.46	1.74	...	10.86	883	265	3.78	1.73	1,787	1,440	382	564																
CENTRAL																																					
	East of Main Range	23.99	8.33	20.00	...	20.52	...	4.17	2.93	4.53	1.61	...	...	...	442	3.03	2.20	2,735	474	216	519													
	West of Main Range	1.88	11.67	...	2.28	1.88	2.13	1.31	2,792	593														
	Total Central	22.41	8.33	20.00	...	20.43	...	4.17	2.93	4.42	1.61	...	...	...	442	2.97	2.12	2,741	474	216	551													
NORTHERN																																					
	East of Main Range	20.00	31.48	29.91	22.86	2.34	4.62	1.40	...	6.67	3.00	206	3.23	1.91	1,320	8,200	555	743														
	West of Main Range	4.00	35.49	27.63	...	1.88	2.90	10.00	3.00	Nil	2.19	2.39	2,016	2,639	143	766													
	Total Northern	...	20.00	4.00	33.51	29.85	22.86	2.22	4.26	1.40	...	7.50	3.00	275	3.03	2.20	1,800	8,155	510	747															
	TOTAL COLONY FOR 1899	11.70	15.00	16.64	12.59	17.79	29.08	12.08	2.11	5.08	1.55	...	10.83	879	212	374	1.75	1,850	6,257	404	611																
	" 1898	13.13	14.93	13.78	8.02	21.90	44.19	12.96	2.06	5.43	1.99	*50	13.44	531	131	3.07	1.99	...	8,843	2,383	410	672															

* Unginned.

WHEAT.

If 1898 was a disappointing year to wheat farmers, 1899 must have been still more so.

With a greater breadth of land under cultivation and every prospect of a bountiful harvest, the sharp frosts experienced on the Downs, which led to many wheat farmers cutting their crops for hay, were extremely trying.

The results, however, now that all the returns are in, are not so disastrous as most persons at first believed would be the case.

The total area sown with wheat in 1899 was 94,017 acres against 74,243 acres in 1898.

Excluding 13,368 acres on which the crop failed completely, and 2,075 acres cut for green fodder, we have the following areas:—

Year.	Hay.				Grain.	
	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Bushels.		
1897	5,898	7,820	57,788	1,009,293		
1898	2,664	2,424	46,219	607,012		
1899	26,047	33,891	52,527	614,414		

So that whilst the yield of grain for 1899 was 7,402 bushels above that of 1898, the yield of hay was 31,467 tons in excess of that year.

The total area under wheat in Queensland, and yielding a crop other than green fodder, is for 1899:—

Against that for 1898, which was 48,883 acres.

With respect to grain, 5,610 acres were affected by rust in 1899, against 2,877 acres in 1898.

Contrasting the area and yield of grain as affected by rust in—

	Bushels.	Bushels.
1897, 23,932 acres affected by rust yielded 376,410 = 15.73 per acre		
1898, 2,877 " " " " 34,012 = 11.82 " "		
1899, 5,610 " " " " 63,712 = 11.36 " "		

With regard to wheat free from rust we find that in—

	Bushels.	Bushels.
1897, 33,856 acres free from rust yielded 632,883	=18.69	per acre
1898, 43,342	573,000	=13.22
1899, 46,917	550,702	=11.74

The frost experienced evidently checking the rust as well as affecting the yield of grain.

Whilst the average yield per acre for all grain, both clean and rusted, was 11.70 bushels, being 1.43 bushels less per acre than the year 1898, the total wheat (grain) obtained in the Colony for the past year exceeded the yield of 1898 by 7,402 bushels.

The yield for the past ten years is shown in the subjoined table:—

H.

WHEAT (GRAIN) RETURNS.

RETURN FOR TEN YEARS.

		AFFECTED WITH RUST.			FREE FROM RUST.			TOTAL.		
		Acres.	Produce.	Average per Acre.	Acres.	Produce.	Average per Acre.	Acres.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
		Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1890	...	786	11,508	14·64	9,508	196,482	20·66	10,294	207,990	20·20
1891	...	1,545	28,884	18·70	17,190	363,425	21·14	18,735	392,309	20·94
1892	...	1,618	28,642	17·70	29,289	433,941	14·82	30,907	462,583	14·97
1893	...	3,779	42,427	11·23	24,632	370,667	15·05	28,411	413,094	14·54
1894	...	7,395	122,212	16·53	20,596	422,973	20·54	27,991	545,185	19·48
1895	...	2,401	13,683	5·70	10,549	109,947	10·42	12,950	123,630	9·55
1896	...	506	3,202	6·33	34,164	598,052	17·51	34,670	601,254	17·34
1897	...	23,932	376,410	15·73	33,856	632,883	18·69	57,788	1,009,293	17·47
1898	...	2,877	34,012	11·82	43,342	573,000	13·22	46,219	607,012	13·13
1899	...	5,610	63,712	11·36	46,917	550,702	11·74	52,527	614,414	11·70
Ten Years		50,449	724,692	14·36	270,043	4,252,072	15·75	320,492	4,976,764	15·53

From the above it will be seen that the highest yield per acre was 20.94 bushels in 1891, and the lowest 9.55 bushels in 1895, the average for the past ten years being 15.53 bushels, the yield for 1899 is therefore 3.83 bushels below the average.

The returns for South Australia just published show an average yield over the whole colony of 4.64 bushels per acre, the total figures given being 1,821,137 acres for 8,453,135 bushels.

From the subjoined table it will be seen that in the Southern district, east of the Main Range, 96 acres out of 763 acres under wheat, or 13 per cent., were affected with rust, whilst in that west of the Main Range 5,396 acres were affected with rust out of a total of 51,539 acres, or 10 per cent.

The Central district, and an experimental acre in the Northern district (Mackay), were largely so affected, but notwithstanding, returned over the total area a large average yield per acre—namely, 22.41 bushels, and 20.00 bushels respectively.

In the Southern district, east of the Main Range, 2,483 acres were sown with wheat; of this 46 acres were unproductive, 516 acres were cut for green food, 1,158 acres were cut for hay, and 763 acres only reaped for grain.

West of the Main Range 91,120 acres were sown with wheat, of which 13,319 acres were unproductive, 1,545 acres were cut for green food, 24,717 acres cut for hay, and 51,539 acres reaped for grain.

The bulk of the wheat produced in the Colony was grown in the Southern district, west of the Main Range, the yield being 597,855 bushels, or 97 per cent. of the whole crop. Of this quantity, Warwick stands first with 155,563 bushels, Allora second with 145,478, and Toowoomba third with 138,553 bushels. The average yield per acre being 14.47 bushels for Warwick, 11.78 for Allora, and 11.03 bushels for Toowoomba.

Ha.

RETURN for the YEAR 1899, showing the EXTENT of LAND REAPED for GRAIN in the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS from which RETURNS have been received, also the AREA affected with RUST, free from RUST, and the PRODUCE.

Petty Sessions Districts.	RESULTS.								
	AFFECTED WITH RUST.			FREE FROM RUST.			TOTAL.		
	Acres.	Produce.	Average per Acre.	Acres.	Produce.	Average per Acre.	Total Extent of Land Reaped for Grain.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
SOUTHERN.									
<i>East of Main Range—</i>									
Crow's Nest (part of) ...	15	180	12.00	125	2,349	18.79	140	2,529	18.06
Gatton ...	24	444	18.50	52	320	6.15	76	764	10.05
Gin Gin ...	2	26	13.00	1	25	25.00	3	51	17.00
Harrisville ...	...	...	...	9	83	9.23	9	83	9.23
Laidley ...	55	400	7.27	23	385	16.74	78	785	10.06
Marburg ...	...	...	...	1	10	10.00	1	10	10.00
Nanango ...	...	...	...	456	7,298	16.00	456	7,298	16.00
Totals ...	96	1,050	10.94	667	10,470	15.70	763	11,520	15.10
<i>West of Main Range—</i>									
Allora ...	184	1,560	8.48	12,163	143,918	11.83	12,347	145,478	11.78
Condamine ...	...	...	...	130	434	3.34	130	434	3.34
Crow's Nest (part of) ...	...	...	...	261	5,125	19.64	261	5,125	19.64
Dalby ...	273	1,670	6.12	3,664	31,772	8.67	3,937	33,442	8.40
Goondiwindi ...	...	...	...	5	55	11.00	5	55	11.00
Highfields ...	723	9,999	13.83	1,494	22,782	15.25	2,217	32,781	14.79
Inglewood ...	13	129	9.92	162	1,391	8.59	175	1,520	8.69
Killarney ...	619	8,251	13.33	2,391	38,035	15.91	3,010	46,286	15.38
Mitchell ...	176	651	3.70	372	1,663	4.47	548	2,314	4.22
Roma ...	296	1,473	4.98	3,814	23,762	6.23	4,110	25,235	6.14
St. George ...	...	...	...	2	25	12.50	2	25	12.50
Stanthorpe ...	...	...	...	110	1,538	13.98	110	1,538	13.98
Texas ...	...	...	...	224	2,464	11.00	224	2,464	11.00
Toowoomba ...	998	9,647	9.67	11,565	128,906	11.15	12,563	138,553	11.03
Warwick ...	2,114	26,223	12.40	8,636	129,340	14.98	10,750	155,563	14.47
Yeulba ...	...	...	...	1,150	7,042	6.12	1,150	7,042	6.12
Totals ...	5,396	59,603	11.05	46,143	538,252	11.66	51,539	597,855	11.60
Totals Southern ...	5,492	60,653	11.04	46,810	548,722	11.72	52,302	609,375	11.65
<i>CENTRAL.</i>									
Barcaldine ...	...	...	...	16	30	1.87	16	30	1.87
Clermont ...	...	...	...	6	60	10.00	6	60	10.00
Emerald ...	17	339	19.94	80	1,760	22.00	97	2,099	21.63
Rockhampton ...	...	...	...	3	90	30.00	3	90	30.00
Springsure ...	100	2,700	27.00	2	40	20.00	102	2,740	27.00
Total Central ...	117	3,039	25.97	107	1,980	18.50	224	5,019	22.41
<i>NORTHERN.</i>									
Mackay ...	1	20	20.00	...	...	...	1	20	20.00
Total Northern ...	1	20	20.00	...	...	...	1	20	20.00
Total Colony ...	5,610	63,712	11.36	46,917	550,702	11.74	52,527	614,414	11.70

In the Central district, exclusive of the area unproductive and that cut for green fodder, there were 56 acres under wheat in 1898, of which 13 acres were reaped for grain, and 43 acres mown for hay.

For 1899 the total area sown with wheat was 413 acres, of which 3 acres proved unproductive, 14 acres were cut for green food, leaving 172 acres mown for hay, and 224 acres reaped for grain.

Notwithstanding the presence of rust in the Central district, where 117 acres were so affected out of the 224 acres reaped for grain, the yield was good, being an average for the Central division of 22.41 bushels per acre.

Out of the 102 acres returned as under wheat in the Springsure district, no less than 100 acres are returned as affected by rust, although the yield given is exceptionally good—27 bushels per acre.

The subjoined table shows the yield of hay in the different districts for the year 1899, the area mown and the yield therefrom being greatly in excess of the previous year:—

Hb.

WHEAT (HAY) RETURNS, 1899.

Petty Sessions Districts.	AFFECTED WITH RUST.			FREE FROM RUST.			TOTAL.				
	Acres.	Produce.	Average per Acre.	Acres.	Produce.	Average per Acre.	Acres.	Produce.	Average per Acre.		
SOUTHERN.				Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.		
<i>East of Main Range—</i>											
Biggenden	3	5	1·66	5	1·66	
Bundaberg	12	36	3·00	...	...	12	36	3·00	
Caboolture	6	18	3·00	...	...	6	18	3·00	
Crow's Nest (part of)	10	15	1·50	36	73	2·03	46	88	1·91
Dugandan	34	69	2·03	9	14	1·55	43	83	1·93
Eidsvold	2	2	1·00	2	2	1·00
Gatton	360	462	1·28	183	258	1·41	543	720	1·33
Gin Gin	3	3	1·00	4	5	1·25	7	8	1·14
Goodna	3	3	1·00	3	3	1·00
Harrisville	24	28	1·17	2	2	1·00	26	39	1·15
Laidley	111	153	1·38	115	195	1·07	226	348	1·54
Logan	3	9	3·00	3	9	3·00
Maryborough	2	3	1·50	...	...	2	3	3	1·50
Nanango	188	256	1·36	188	256	1·36
Rosewood	20	36	1·80	21	37	1·08	41	73	1·78
South Brisbane	2	5	2·50	...	...	...	2	5	2·50
Taroom	1	1	1·00	1	1	1·00
Tiaro	3	7	2·33	1	3	3·00	4	10	2·50
Total	587	835	1·42	571	863	1·51	1,158	1,698	1·47
<i>West of Main Range—</i>											
Allora	18	35	1·94	6,712	8,361	1·25	6,730	8,396	1·25
Charleville	5	1	0·20	5	1	0·20
Crow's Nest (part of)	52	70	1·35	52	70	1·35
Cunnamulla	61	58	0·95	61	58	0·95
Dalby	128	174	1·36	1,068	1,186	1·11	1,196	1,360	1·14
Goomdiwindi	146	158	1·08	146	158	1·08
Highfields	419	544	1·30	696	1,041	1·50	1,115	1,585	1·42
Hungerford	68	48	0·70	68	48	0·70
Inglewood	40	109	2·72	305	382	1·25	345	491	1·42
Killarney	255	261	1·02	367	469	1·28	622	730	1·18
Mitchell	38	15	0·42	162	77	0·48	200	92	0·46
Roma	163	103	0·63	690	519	0·75	853	622	0·73
St. George	6	5	0·83	188	188	1·00	194	193	1·00
Stanhope	25	24	0·96	25	24	0·96
Surat	89	83	0·93	89	83	0·93
Texas	131	141	1·08	131	141	1·08
Toowoomba	525	721	1·37	7,887	10,470	1·33	8,412	11,191	1·33
Warwick	722	814	1·12	3,661	5,769	1·78	4,383	6,583	1·50
Yeulba	90	106	1·18	90	106	1·18
Total	2,314	2,781	1·20	22,403	29,151	1·30	24,717	31,932	1·29
Total Southern	2,901	3,616	1·25	22,974	30,014	1·31	25,875	33,630	1·30
CENTRAL.											
Barcaldine	9	18	2·00	9	18	2·00
Blackall	30	35	1·17	30	35	1·17
Emerald	48	38	0·79	...	...	...	48	38	0·79
Rockhampton	61	121	1·98	24	49	2·04	85	170	2·00
Total Central	109	159	1·46	63	102	1·62	172	261	1·52
Total Colony	3,010	3,775	1·25	23,037	30,116	1·30	26,047	33,891	1·30

The quantities and values of breadstuff imported into and exported from Queensland during 1899 are as under:—

H.C.
BREAD STUFFS.

ITEM.	IMPORTED.		EXPORTED.		NET IMPORTS.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Flour (tons) ...	33,533	£ 274,853	28	£ 310	33,505	£ 274,543
Wheat (bushels) ...	652,042	102,920	700	106	651,342	102,814
Biscuits (lb.) ...	151,514	5,628	6,087	124	145,427	5,504
Total	...	383,401	...	540	...	382,861

The net imports for the last three years were:—

1897.			1898.			1899.		
Flour	... 31,441 tons	= £407,360	32,249 tons	= £372,931		33,505 tons	= £274,543	
Wheat	... 358,666 bushels	= 94,842	315,289 bushels	= 64,845		651,342 bushels	= 102,814	
Biscuits	... 104,040 lb.	= 4,571	148,753 lb.	= 6,000		145,427 lb.	= 5,504	
			506,773			443,776		382,861

So that whilst the net quantity of flour imported is greater, and the quantity of wheat more than double that of 1898, the bill for breadstuff is £60,915 below that of the previous year.

The larger importations of 1899 are doubtless owing in part to the serious views entertained for some time of the damage done to the Downs wheat crops by the severe frosts, such gloomy anticipations being happily not fully realised in the subsequent harvest.

For purposes of contrast, the subjoined table (Hd) shows the net imports of flour and wheat during the past four years, together with the quantity grown in Queensland, the ton of flour being taken to equal 44 bushels of wheat, and although this quantity may not be exactly correct, it is the equivalent used in previous years, and therefore the only one whose result will give an accurate contrast.

Hd.

WHEAT IMPORTS.

Year.	Imported.			Grown in Queensland.		Total.	
	Net Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	1896	2,312,139	601,254	2,913,393
1897	1,743,390	1,009,293	1,009,293	1897	1,743,390	1,009,293	2,752,683
1898	1,731,911	607,012	607,012	1898	1,731,911	607,012	2,338,923
1899	2,125,562	614,414	614,414	1899	2,125,562	614,414	2,739,976

NOTE:—For the purposes of this Statement the flour imported has been converted into wheat on the basis of 1 ton flour = 44 bushels wheat.

It will thus be seen that the production of wheat in Queensland has equalled 22.4 per cent. for the past year of the total amount required for the use of the Colony, as against 25.9 in 1898. There is, therefore, room for large expansion in production before the requirements of the Colony are reached.

Should the same area be sown for wheat as last year, about 113,000 bushels will be required for seed alone.

In connection with wheat production, it may not be out of place here to direct attention to the milling industry.

During the past year there have been in operation sixteen milling establishments engaged in treating wheat. Full particulars are given in the following table:—

He.

District.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Hands Employed.	Number of Stones.	Number of Rollers.	Wheat Treated.	FLOUR MADE.		MEAL MADE.		BRAN AND POLLARD.	
						Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.
Metropolitan ...	6	91	Pairs.	Sets.	Bushels.	8,883	£ 74,714	101	£ 890	434,199	£ 19,459
Allora and Warwick...	4	28	...	19	404,176	3,934	30,225	5	37	146,658	8,115
Toowoomba ...	3	37	10	22	193,991	261,085	5,092	38,109	8	234,029	10,655
Elsewhere ...	3	23	1	24	173,311	3,482	31,420	1	9	179,152	9,325
	16	179	23	108	1,032,563	21,391	174,468	115	995	994,038	47,554

At some of the above establishments but little wheat is treated, the factories being principally devoted to treating other grain. Information respecting Grain Mills will be found in the Statistical Register.

These employed 179 men, and had 23 pairs of stones and 108 sets of rollers in operation. The quantity of wheat treated during the year 1899 was 1,032,563 bushels, producing 21,391 tons of flour, 115 tons of meal, and 994,038 bushels of bran and pollard.

The greatest number of mills in which wheat was treated was in the Metropolitan district, 6; then follow Toowoomba, 3; Warwick, 2; Allora, 2; Rockhampton, Maryborough, and Roma, 1 each.

The quantity of wheat imported, which would be almost entirely used for milling purposes, is as nearly as possible one-half the weight of flour imported.

BARLEY.

There has been considerable expansion under this head of both area cultivated and crop reaped during the past year. Although the yield per acre is again much below that of the year 1897, which was 24 bushels per acre, it shows an increase of 4 bushels per acre on the yield of 1898 for both varieties of grain.

The acreage under this crop was, for the last two years, as follows:—

			1898.		1899.
			Acres.		Acres.
Reaped for grain	...	...	2,944	...	7,474
Mown for hay	...	...	152	...	620
Cut for green food	...	...	2,457	...	3,697
Total	...	...	5,553	...	11,791

Showing a total increase of area under all heads for 1899 of 6,238 acres.

The following table contrasts for grain the results of the past year with those of the preceding one, and from it will be seen that whilst the quantity of grain produced has increased during 1899 by 83,578 bushels, the average yield was greater by 4.01 bushels per acre.

I.

Year.	Area for Grain.	Produce.	Average Produce per Acre.
			Acres.
1898	2,944	34,865	11.84
1899	7,474	118,443	15.85
Increase in 1899	4,530	83,578	4.01
Decrease in 1899	...	...	...

A table is also given showing area, quantity, and average yield per acre for all districts for both varieties of grain, from which it will be seen that the highest average yield was in Killarney, where malting barley yielded 27.99 bushels per acre.

I a.

RETURN showing the AREA under BARLEY, exclusive of HAY and GREEN CROPS, and the YIELD of GRAIN obtained therefrom, during the Year 1899.

District.	Malting Grain.			Other Varieties Grain.		
	Acres.	Bushels.	Average per Acre.	Acres.	Bushels.	Average per Acre.
Allora	690	10,429	15.11	438	5,121	11.69
Biggenden	2	40	20.00	...	...	...
Crow's Nest, part of*	117	2,864	24.48	1	20	20.
Crow's Nest, part of†	71	1,552	21.86	...	...	...
Dalby	337	4,460	13.23	28	507	18.11
Dugandan	3	54	18.00	6	84	14.00
Emerald	3	60	20.00	...	...	...
Gatton	83	1,230	14.82	30	458	15.27
Harrisville	216	2,931	13.57	2	45	22.50
Highfields	875	13,850	15.83	44	848	19.27
Killarney	142	3,975	27.99	18	302	16.78
Laidley	69	1,426	20.67	9	171	19.00
Nanango	5	30	6.00	...	...	...
Toowoomba	2,486	36,888	14.84	650	7,757	11.93
Warwick	912	20,238	22.19	223	2,851	12.78
All Other Districts	...	...	...	14	252	18.00
Total	6,011	100,027	16.64	1,463	18,416	12.59

* East of Main Range.

† West of Main Range.

The two varieties of grain have been collated separately as "malting" and "other barley," the increase in area of the former being 4,058 acres against an increase of other barley of 472 acres.

As the barley mown for hay and green fodder is treated elsewhere in this Report, it will be well to speak here only of grain, and the malting variety will be taken first.

MALTING BARLEY.

It is evident that a strong effort has been made by the farmers to meet the Queensland requirements for malt for the various breweries, since the area under malting barley has increased from 1,953 acres in 1898 to 6,011 acres in 1899. The crop, too, has increased from 26,917 bushels (average yield 13.78) in 1898 to 100,027 bushels (average yield 16.64) in 1899.

The district producing the greatest quantity of malting barley was the western portion of the Southern division, where 5,513 acres produced 91,392 bushels. The eastern portion obtained 8,575 bushels from 495 acres. In the Central division, 3 acres at Emerald yielded 60 bushels, and no other district reports having grown this grain.

The district having the greatest area under this crop was Toowoomba, with 2,486 acres for 36,888 bushels, followed by Warwick, with 912 acres for 20,238 bushels; Highfields, 875 acres for 13,850 bushels; and Allora, 690 acres for 10,429 bushels; but, whilst the returns from the other districts average about 15 bushels of grain per acre, that of Warwick returns 22 bushels per acre.

During the past year, 127,469 bushels of malt were imported into Queensland of a value of £44,148; and 57,934 bushels of barley of the value of £10,959.

It is uncertain how much of the barley imported into Queensland was malting barley, as the Customs return only 15 bushels of the latter imported, which is manifestly wrong.

The following statement contrasts the past year with the preceding one with respect to malt made in Queensland:—

Year.	Made from		Made from	Total Malt		
	Imported Barley.	Bushels.	Queensland Barley.	Bushels.	made.	
1898	12,278	...	20,351	...	32,629
1899	42,851	...	19,420	...	62,271

Of the 42,851 bushels imported in 1899, 41,571 came from New Zealand, the balance coming from California.

Although there has been an increase of approximately 100 per cent. in the quantity of malt made in Queensland during the past year, the increase has been entirely in the direction of that made from imported grain. Whether this is owing to the want of required qualities in the local product is for the maltsters to say, but I notice in the local reports, the farmers appear to be unable to dispose of much of their barley to the maltsters, and appear to be dissatisfied in consequence.

If the quality of the grain is what is wrong it can probably be remedied by obtaining seed suitable to maltsters' requirements. Matters, such as immaturity of grain or injuries received in threshing, which now cause the rejection by the maltsters of the grain from last harvest, are matters easily remedied.

The quantity of malt made and imported into Queensland for the past eight years is as under, the figures being for the financial and calendar years respectively, as shown:—

		I b.		Malt Imported
		Malted in Queensland,		
			Bushels.	Bushels.
1891-92 (financial)	ditto	..	737	
1892-93	ditto	...	2,198	1892 116,377
1893-94	ditto	...	1,408	1893 121,607
1894-95	ditto	...	4,537	1894 127,188
1895-96	ditto	...	12,988	1895 153,843
1896-97	ditto	...	14,400	1896 147,474
1897-98	ditto	...	34,589	1897 156,613
1898	(calendar)	...	32,629	1898 129,811
1899	ditto	...	62,271	1899 127,469

The amount of duty payable on the malt and barley imported during 1899 would be £30,288, whilst the amount sent out of the country to pay for these articles would be, as already stated, £55,107, being greater than in 1898 by £8,506. It is a matter of regret that so large a sum should be sent out of the colony, instead of being circulated amongst the farmers and maltsters of Queensland and their workmen.

Whilst the quantity of Queensland beer has increased from 5,028,007 gallons in 1898 to 5,422,194 gallons in 1899, it is to be noticed that the quantity of malt used in the breweries has decreased from 185,310 bushels in 1897-8, when the smaller quantity of beer was made, to 181,092 bushels in 1898-9, when the output was 10 per cent. greater. An accurate comparison, however, is impossible as the figures are for the calendar and financial year respectively, and the returns for similar periods are unobtainable.

From the foregoing figures it would appear that whilst the requirements of the brewers should be increasing in the direction of malt they have decreased during the past year, and that the Queensland-grown malting barley has not up to the present commanded such sale in the market for malting purposes as might have been expected. Had the whole of the malting barley been sufficiently good in quality to have been made into malt it would not have met, by nearly one-half, the requirements of the breweries.

With regard to "Other Barley," there has also been an increase of 50 per cent. in area and more than double the yield in quantity, the greatest contributors being Toowoomba, with 650 acres for 7,757 bushels; Allora, with 438 acres for 5,121 bushels; and Warwick, with 223 acres for 2,851 bushels. The total area under this crop being 1,463 acres and the yield 18,416 bushels, or an average of 12.59 bushels per acre.

MAIZE.

Whilst the area of land under maize is greater for 1899 than for the previous year, yet, owing to the dryness of the season, the results have proved to be less satisfactory.

Contrasting the area and yield for the two years we have:—

J.

Year.	Grain.		Average Produce per Acre.
	Acres.	Bushels.	
1898	102,835	2,252,481	21.90
1899	110,489	1,965,598	17.79
Increase in 1899	7,654	...	...
Decrease in 1899	...	286,883	4.11

The total area of land planted with maize was as under:—

	Acres.
Reaped for grain	110,489
Cut for green fodder	4,096
Total	114,585

The area under maize in 1899 was practically the same as in 1897, but whilst the crop reached 2,803,172 bushels in 1897 it was only 1,965,598 bushels in the past year, as shown above, the average yield per acre being, for 1897, 25.55; 1898, 21.90; 1899, 17.79.

The drought appears to have completely destroyed all prospects of a crop in some places, whilst seriously reducing the returns in others. For instance, nine farmers in the Allora district return collectively 546 acres under cultivation for maize, from which they obtain a return of 356 bushels or 0.63 bushels per acre. Another group, cultivating 4,366 acres, return crop nil; the cause of loss of crop being given as drought. In the Toowoomba and some of the adjacent districts, groups return 1,446 bushels from 550 acres, and 3,772 bushels from 980 acres respectively.

With cases like these there can be no surprise in finding that the average yield per acre for the whole colony is seriously reduced.

The acreage, yield of grain, average per acre, &c., are shown in the subjoined table, contrasting the years 1898 and 1899 for all districts in the colony.

J a.

Petty Sessions District.	Area Planted for Grain.			Yield of Grain.			Average Yield per Acre.		
	In 1898.	In 1899.	Increase or Decrease.	In 1898.	In 1899.	Increase or Decrease.	In 1898.	In 1899.	Increase or Decrease.
	Acres.	Acres.	—	Acres.	Bushels.	—	Bushels.	Bushels.	—
Warwick	8,766	10,146	1,380	227,483	112,136	-115,347	25.95	11.05	-14.90
Toowoomba	8,813	9,512	699	201,391	91,000	-110,391	22.85	9.57	-13.28
Laidley	8,844	8,854	10	141,745	158,450	16,705	16.02	17.90	1.88
Gatton	8,518	8,028	-490	136,026	104,150	-31,876	15.97	12.97	-3.00
Dugandan	7,586	7,698	112	129,430	112,435	-16,995	17.06	14.61	-2.45
Allora	6,309	6,784	475	111,304	35,744	-75,560	17.64	5.27	-12.37
Marburg	5,616	5,983	367	86,751	106,673	19,922	15.45	17.83	2.38
Highfields	5,410	5,054	-356	147,635	57,513	-90,122	27.29	11.38	-15.91
Harrisville	3,592	3,989	397	62,269	69,225	6,956	17.34	17.25	0.09
Rosewood	2,737	3,481	744	50,484	86,083	35,599	18.45	24.73	6.28
Killarney	3,005	3,369	364	81,453	48,280	-33,173	27.11	14.33	-12.78
Redcliffe	2,248	2,935	687	51,474	85,250	33,776	22.89	29.05	6.16
Herberton	2,436	2,756	320	94,272	103,675	9,403	38.70	37.62	-1.08
Beaudesert	2,490	2,543	53	65,158	64,111	-1,047	26.17	25.21	-0.96
Esk	2,245	2,233	-12	39,043	50,984	11,941	17.39	22.83	5.44
Dalby	1,646	2,202	556	39,778	32,238	-7,540	24.17	14.64	-9.53
Nerang	1,945	1,923	-22	62,459	60,699	-1,760	32.11	31.56	-0.55
Crow's Nest, part of, a	1,830	1,830	0	43,723	43,723	0	28.13	21.26	-6.87
Crow's Nest, part of, b	1,082	203	-879	18,176	18,176	0	14,308	21.26	-6.87
Ipswich	1,300	1,629	329	24,061	38,740	14,679	18.51	23.78	5.27
Tiaro	1,412	1,616	204	35,568	45,471	9,903	25.19	28.14	2.95
Logan	1,382	1,576	194	31,032	36,890	5,858	22.45	23.41	0.96
Bundaberg	1,362	1,456	94	32,166	36,699	4,533	23.61	25.21	1.60
Cairns	1,496	1,382	-114	72,008	59,053	-12,955	48.13	42.73	-5.40
Nanango	1,303	1,124	-179	42,562	36,098	-6,464	32.66	32.12	-0.54
Gympie	763	1,033	270	18,923	26,774	8,751	23.62	25.92	2.30
All other Districts	8,902	10,271	1,369	192,699	245,328	52,629	21.65	23.89	2.24
Total—Colony	102,835	110,489	7,654	2,252,481	1,965,598	286,883	21.90	17.79	-4.11

a East of Main Range.

b West of Main Range.

The greatest acreage under maize was in the Southern district east of the Main Range, where 63,740 acres under crop yielded 1,315,326 bushels. In the western portion of that division 39,103 acres yielded 408,594 bushels. The Central division adds 1,114 acres with 22,759 bushels, the whole being in the eastern portion of that district except 12 acres. The Northern division divides the area almost equally between the eastern and western portion. The eastern having 3,224 acres yielding 101,503 bushels, and the western 3,308 acres with 117,416 bushels.

The area under maize and yield of each district in the colony will be found on reference to the Appendix Tables No. X. and XI. of this Report.

The quantity of maize imported into Queensland last year was 501,179 bushels, value £89,256.

OATS.

The year 1899 appears to have been another unfavourable year for this crop, for although the area under crop was nearly two and a-half times greater than that of 1898, it will be seen from reference to the table given below that the area reaped for grain was only about 39 per cent. of 1897. As compared with 1898 there was an increase in area of 443 acres, and in produce of 6,665 bushels.

The total area under oats in Queensland during the respective years given was:—

K.							1897.	1898.	1899.
	Oats.								
Reaped for grain	...	...	...	...	...	...	Acres. 1,834	Acres. 271	Acres. 714
Mown for hay	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,002	9,358	10,997
Cut for green fodder	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,298	3,966	4,352
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,134	13,595	16,063

The principal centres of cultivation of oats were Allora and Toowoomba, where considerable increases had taken place in area during the past year. In the former district the area under oats (grain and hay only) had increased from 325 acres in 1898 to 736 acres in 1899; Toowoomba, from 606 acres in 1898 to 1,154 acres in 1899.

In the Southern district, east of the Main Range, only 52 acres were reaped for grain and 7,006 acres mown for hay; whilst the western portion of that district reaped 653 acres and mowed 2,069 acres. In the Central and Northern districts only 9 acres were reaped and 1,922 acres mown.

The areas reaped for grain during 1898 and 1899, with quantities and average yield per acre, are given below:—

Ka.							Area for Grain.	Produce.	Average Produce per Acre.
1898	...	...	...	...	...	...	Acres. 271	Bushels. 4,047	Bushels. 14.93
1899	...	...	...	...	...	...	714	10,712	15.00
Increase in 1899	...	...	...	...	...	...	443	6,665	0.07
Decrease in 1899	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

The grain yield per acre for the three years past was:—

	Bushels.		Bushels.		Bushels.
1897	...	17.17	1898	...	14.93

New Zealand is the great oat-producing colony, the soil and climate appearing to suit it. The oat harvest affords employment to large numbers of persons who ordinarily reside in towns, besides the rural population. The average yield per acre for the whole of New Zealand is stated to have been 39.56 bushels per acre for 1899, and the produce 16,511,388 bushels.

The quantity and value of oats imported into Queensland were as under:—

	Bushels.		Value.
1898	...	101,438	£13,880
1899	...	186,905	22,835

The quantity produced in Queensland in 1899 would be, therefore, rather more than 5 per cent. of the total requirements. In 1898 it formed 4 per cent., and in 1897 28 per cent., of such requirements.

RICE.

The cultivation of rice for the past year is considerably less, both in area and quantity, than that for the preceding year. It may be remembered that the returns of 1898 for this crop gave great promise of an expanding industry, the area being nearly double and the yield nearly three times that of the previous year. For some reason, however, both area and produce are much less during the past year, being only 319 acres, against 863 for 1898; whilst the yield was 9,275 bushels of paddy against 38,133 bushels for 1898.

The yield per acre, too, had fallen in 1899 to 29.08 bushels from 44.19 bushels in 1898.

L.

L.							Acre.	Bushels.	Average Bushels.
1895	...	...	...	...	...	...	716	19,245	26.88
1896	...	...	...	...	...	...	600	20,528	34.21
1897	...	...	...	...	...	...	445	12,990	29.19
1898	...	...	...	...	...	...	863	38,133	44.19
1899	...	...	...	...	...	...	319	9,275	29.08

My information is that the Chinese in the Cairns district who cultivated rice in previous years used the ground for other crops last year, so that it may fairly be presumed that the crop of 1898, large as the yield seemed to be, did not prove sufficiently remunerative to induce them to persevere in the cultivation of rice.

The falling off in this district (Cairns) was from 709 acres in 1898 to 207 acres in 1899, whilst the produce fell from 33,540 bushels in 1898 to 6,304 bushels in 1899. The average yield per acre also fell from 47.30 bushels to 30.45. Cook increased the area cultivated by 14 acres, and produce by 390 bushels. Douglas fell from 60 acres, yielding 1,653 bushels, in 1898 to 19 acres, yielding 445 bushels, in 1899. Logan returns 18 acres this last year, against 19 acres previously, with much less satisfactory results.

La.

District.			Position in the Colony.					Area Planted.	Quantity Produced.	Average Yield per Acre.
Cairns	...	...	Northern Division, East of Coast Range	...	...	...	...	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Cook	...	...	”	”	”	”	...	207	6,304	30.45
Douglas	...	...	”	”	”	”	...	61	1,846	30.26
Mackay	...	...	”	”	”	”	...	19	445	23.42
Mareeba	...	...	”	”	”	”	...	5	150	30.00
Herberton	...	...	”	”	”	”	...	1	20	20.00
Logan	...	...	Southern	”	West of Coast Range	”	...	8	221	27.63
					East of Main Range	”	...	18	289	16.06
			Total	...	...	...	...	319	9,275	29.08

It will be a matter of great regret if the cultivation of this cereal is allowed to fall out of the list of Queensland products, since there are so many things to assist the farmer in competing with the imported article. Freight, insurance, shipping and agency charges, besides a duty representing about one-half the cost of the grain itself constitute together a large protection to the local grower, whilst the demand is far beyond the possible production of years to come.

Foreign growers have in their favour command of cheap labour, suitable soils and climates, with seed and methods of cultivation adapted thereto, and a knowledge of the preparation of the grain for market. Swamp rice will probably never be grown in Queensland, or, at all events, until irrigation has arrived at such perfection and general adoption as the present gives no indication of. Upland rice, however, can be grown, as has already been amply demonstrated in many localities, and the varieties of soil and climate are so great in Queensland that many centres exist where such rice can be grown and give good crops, and it follows that seed should be selected which would give the best edible grain, and the methods of cultivation and preparation for market be studied to obtain satisfactory pecuniary returns. Unless a grain can be placed on the market equal in culinary qualities to the imported article, people are not likely to buy it, nor would they be likely to do so if its "get-up" and appearance was inferior to imported rice.

The early efforts of sugar-growers resulted in the production of an article very inferior to the sugar of to-day, and doubtless perseverance will lead to the production of a class of rice that will sell as freely, and at even prices with the imported grain.

The net imports of rice for 1899 was 9,283,933 lb., of the value of £50,099.

The Queensland production of 9,275 bushels of paddy would equal about 320,617 lb. of clean rice, and would therefore be about 3.34 per cent. of the total requirements of the colony.

RYE.

There has been an increase in the breadth of land under this crop for the past year, but a loss of one-third in the area reaped for grain; the increase being 3 acres in the area mown for hay, and 209 acres cut for green feed.

The following table compares the area under each head for the years 1898 and 1899:—

		1898.	1899.
		Acres.	Acres.
Reaped for grain	...	299	198
Mown for hay	...	483	486
Cut for green feed	...	538	747
Total area under crop...	...	1,320	1,431

The largest quantity of grain was returned from Laidley, where 502 bushels were obtained from 48 acres, whilst at Toowoomba 498 bushels were obtained from 44 acres, an average of nearly a bushel per acre higher than Laidley. The highest yield per acre for the whole colony was obtained in 1896, when the average stood at 21.59 bushels per acre. It has steadily fallen each year since until, for 1899, the average was 12.08 bushels per acre.

The following table gives the acreage, the yield, and average yield per acre for five years:—

Year.		Acres.	Yield, Bushels.	Average per Acre, Bushels.
1895	...	202	4,169	20.64
1896	...	345	7,449	21.59
1897	...	470	8,329	17.72
1898	...	299	3,874	12.96
1899	...	198	2,391	12.08

Full particulars of acreage and yield of each district in the colony will be found in the Appendix tables to this Report, Nos. X. and XI.

POTATOES (ENGLISH).

There has been a considerable increase in the breadth of land under potatoes for the past year as compared with 1898, amounting to no less than 2,805 acres and 6,262 tons of tubers, being a percentage of increase of area equal to 35 per cent., and 38 per cent. of yield.

The actual figures are: For 1898, area 7,961 acres, yielding 16,413 tons of potatoes; and for 1899, area 10,766 acres, yielding 22,675 tons.

The principal centre of cultivation is the Southern division of the Colony, where 92 per cent. of the total area was planted, and 91 per cent. of the total production obtained, the eastern portion tilling 7,305 acres, yielding 16,611 tons against the western portion, where 2,608 acres yielding 3,976 tons were planted. The principal increases in areas and yield have taken place in the Southern division, east and west alike having increased by about one-third on the figures for 1898.

East of the Range the Gatton district with 1,473 acres, yielding 2,119 tons, heads the list of contributors, Logan coming next with 672 acres for 1,591 tons, and Redcliffe next, where 633 acres produced 1,720 tons.

In the western portion of the Southern division, Warwick stands first, 842 acres having yielded 1,359 tons. In Highfields, 696 acres yielded 940 tons, and in Toowoomba 294 acres yielded 411 tons.

In the eastern portion of the Central division the area increased from 148 acres, yielding 301 tons in 1898, to 256 acres yielding 763 tons in 1899. In the western portion the figures had fallen to 18 acres, yielding 41 tons for 1899.

In the Northern division of the Colony there was a considerable increase shown in the eastern portion, where 424 acres yielded 993 tons. In the western portion the increase was slight, the area being 155 acres, and yield 291 tons.

The average weight per acre in 1899 for the whole Colony was 2.1 tons, whilst the eastern portion of the Southern division averaged 2.3 tons per acre, and the western 1.5 tons per acre.

Full particulars of the area and yield in each Petty Sessions District will be found in Appendix Tables X. and XI.

The weight and value of potatoes imported into Queensland for the past three years were:—

Year.	Weight (Tons).					Value.
1897	15,756	£61,102
1898	10,233	70,006
1899	15,128	68,205

So that the Colony produced 60 per cent. of this food in 1899 as against 62 per cent. produced in 1898.

SWEET POTATOES.

The area under this crop for the whole Colony for 1899 was 3,919 acres yielding 19,899 tons, against 3,696 acres yielding 20,069 tons for 1898, showing an increase of area for 1899 of 223 acres and a decrease of yield of 170 tons as compared with 1898. The eastern portion of the Southern division yielded 14,338 tons out of the whole.

SUGAR.

The production of sugar for the year 1899 shows a very considerable decrease on that of 1898, owing principally to frost experienced throughout the whole of the sugar districts as far North as Mourilyan, and to dry weather.

Whilst the yield of sugar for 1898 reached a total of 163,734 tons, that of 1899 is only 123,289 tons, or a decrease on the previous year's production of 40,445 tons, being 25 per cent. less than the production for 1898.

The area of land under the cultivation of sugar cane and that crushed for each year is given as—

Year.	Cultivated.		Crushed	
1896	...	83,093 acres	...	66,640 acres
1897	...	98,641 ,,	...	65,432 ,,
1898	...	111,012 ,,	...	82,391 ,,
1899	...	110,657 ,,	...	79,435 ,,

Showing a decrease for the past year in area under cultivation of 355 acres, and in area crushed of 2,956 acres.

The average yield of sugar per acre throughout the colony was, in 1897, 1.50 tons; 1898, 1.99 tons; and 1899, 1.55 tons; so that whilst the decrease in area of cane crushed equalled 3.59 per cent., the yield of sugar was 24.70 per cent., or nearly half a ton of sugar per acre below that of the previous year.

The weight of cane crushed from the 79,435 acres was 1,176,466 tons, or an average of 14.81 tons per acre, as against 18.72 tons per acre for 1898, and 12.30 tons for 1897.

The number of tons of cane required to make one ton of sugar was 9.54 for the past year; the number required in 1898 being 9.42 tons, these averages being for the whole colony.

Details for each district respecting the areas planted, held over or unproductive, area crushed, and the weight of cane and of sugar produced, are shown in the following table:—

N.

SUGAR RETURNS, 1899.

District.	Area for Plants.	Area Stand Over or Unproductive.	Area Crushed for Sugar.	Total Area for Sugar.	Weight of Cane.	Sugar.	Molasses.
<i>Southern.</i>							
Bundaberg and Gin Gin ...	200	4,953	19,758	24,911	309,739	33,310	693,790
Childers, Maryborough, and Tiaro	68	3,672	13,426	17,166	271,159	25,766	899,830
Logan ...	2	249	908	1,159	12,640	1,030	42,550
Marburg and Rosewood ...	8	374	458	840	3,312	297	16,500
Maroochy and Gympie ...	12	475	654	1,141	10,988	1,112	40,960
Nerang ...	15	299	552	866	5,031	528	20,000
Total Southern ...	305	10,022	35,756	46,083	612,869	62,043	1,713,630
<i>Central.</i>							
Rockhampton ...	3	130	807	940	12,335	1,300	30,000
<i>Northern.</i>							
Ayr ...	99	2,633	4,845	7,577	67,152	6,520	30,000
Bowen ...	47	842	1,094	1,983	13,056	984	...
Cairns and Douglas ...	78	3,136	6,840	10,054	133,535	14,699	329,000
Ingham and Mourilyan ...	443	4,510	11,750	16,703	170,840	20,222	722,000
Mackay ...	645	8,329	18,343	27,317	166,679	17,521	567,941
Total Northern ...	1,312	19,450	42,872	63,634	551,262	59,946	1,348,941
Total Colony ...	1,620	29,602	79,435	110,657	1,176,466	123,289	3,092,571

N.B.—The molasses shown above is far short of the quantity produced, but may be taken as the quantity conserved and utilised. Many mills allow this product to run to waste.

The area and output of the two years 1898 and 1899 for each district are contrasted in the subjoined table:—

N a.

Petty Sessions District.	Cultivation.			Production.				
	Area in 1898.	Area in 1899.	Increase or Decrease in 1899.	1898.		1899.		Increase or Decrease in 1899.
				Area Crushed.	Sugar.	Area Crushed.	Sugar.	
Ayr ...	7,818	7,577	— 241	5,208	12,460	4,845	6,520	— 363
Bowen ...	1,632	1,983	+ 351	890	1,470	1,094	984	+ 204
Bundaberg and Gin Gin ...	25,550	24,911	— 639	21,390	43,099	19,758	33,310	— 1,632
Cairns and Douglas ...	8,101	10,054	+ 1,953	5,547	14,740	6,840	14,699	+ 1,293
Childers, Maryborough, and Tiaro	16,651	17,166	+ 515	12,073	26,888	13,426	25,766	+ 1,353
Ingham and Mourilyan ...	15,893	16,703	+ 810	11,536	25,416	11,750	20,222	+ 214
Logan ...	1,535	1,159	— 376	1,392	2,113	908	1,030	— 484
Mackay ...	29,891	27,317	— 2,574	21,350	31,780	18,343	17,521	— 3,007
Marburg and Rosewood ...	938	840	— 98	815	1,250	458	297	— 357
Maroochy and Gympie ...	1,182	1,141	— 41	710	1,343	654	1,112	— 56
Nerang ...	888	866	— 22	808	1,299	552	528	— 256
Rockhampton ...	933	940	+ 7	672	1,876	807	1,300	+ 135
Totals, 1898 ...	111,012	...	...	82,391	163,734	...	...	...
Totals, 1899 ...	...	110,657	...	...	...	79,435	123,289	...
Increase in certain Districts, 1899 ...	...	...	+ 3,636	...	...	...	...	+ 3,199
Decrease in certain Districts, 1899 ...	...	...	— 3,991	...	...	...	...	— 6,155
Net Increase in 1899 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Net Decrease in 1899 ...	...	...	— 355	...	...	...	...	— 2,956
								— 40,445

From this it will be seen that whilst increases of areas under cultivation obtained at Cairns and Douglas, Ingham and Mourilyan, Childers, &c., and Bowen (Proserpine), there were decreases in all the other districts; and that whilst five districts showed increases in the areas crushed for cane, seven showed decreases, the total net decrease in areas crushed for cane being 2,956 acres.

It will be noticed that the heaviest decreases in sugar produced occurred at—

Mackay	...	...	14,259	tons	= 44.87 per cent. of crop of previous year.
Bundaberg	...	...	9,789	"	= 22.71 "
Ayr	...	...	5,940	"	= 47.67 "
Ingham	...	...	5,194	"	= 20.44 "

The reasons given by most of the cultivators for such shortage were frost, want of rain, in some cases grubs, and in many cases all three. Undoubtedly the severe frost which occurred in July is very largely the cause of the decrease, especially as it was immediately followed by rain in most districts, and the mills in some cases were not quite ready to deal with the frosted cane, which deteriorated rapidly where compelled to remain uncut for any length of time.

In the Burdekin district, which is the only one in Queensland where irrigation is carried on to any extent, the area given of cane land irrigated in 1898 was 7,402 acres, but in 1899 only 5,140 acres are so returned.

This district suffered severely from frost in July, and also from the fact that only one mill was able to commence crushing the frosted cane at once; but although the area irrigated was so reduced and the production of sugar fell from 12,460 tons in 1898 to 6,520 tons for 1899, the value of irrigation is shown in the returns of many of the farmers who return "No water, no crop."

In view of Dr. Maxwell's report on the declining fertility of our sugar lands, it may not be out of place to draw attention to the quantity of manure produced by meat works, bone mills, &c., which in 1899 turned out about 20,000 tons, of which 9,915 tons were exported, exclusive of 23 tons of sulphate of ammonia; or, as nearly as possible, one half of the manure made in the colony was exported instead of being used here.

In addition to the above 6,177 tons of guano were sent to places beyond the colony, from islands on the coast. I am unable to ascertain if any of these deposits of guano have been brought into use within the colony.

The following table will show the quantities and values of manure and guano exported from Queensland to each colony and country during the past year.

N b.

MANURES EXPORTED.

Country Whither.	GUANO.		BONE DUST AND OTHER.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
New South Wales	Tons.	£
Victoria	672	2,013
South Australia	2,250	5,355
Tasmania	500	1,000
New Zealand
Japan	2,755	6,375
Fiji
Vancouver
Honolulu
TOTAL	6,177	14,743
			Tons.	£
			4,191	16,615
			3,308	12,579
			200	750
			569	1,920
			218	1,137
			687	2,511
			328	2,628
			65	254
			349	1,376
			9,915	39,770

The average yield of sugar per acre for each district for the past seven years is shown in the subjoined table.

N c.

AVERAGE YIELD OF SUGAR PER ACRE.

		1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
Logan	...	1.23	1.25	0.96	1.24	0.76	1.52	1.13
Childers	...	...	...	1.71	2.20			
Maryborough	...	2.18	2.09	2.00	1.11	1.27	2.23	1.92
Tiaro	...	...	...	...	1.39			
Bundaberg	...	1.71	1.50	1.48	1.47			
Gin Gin	...	...	...	0.10	1.18	1.05	2.01	1.69
Mackay	...	1.79	1.79	1.47	1.01	1.35	1.49	0.96
Ayr	...	1.84	2.57	1.61	1.36	1.87	2.39	1.35
Ingham	...	2.26	2.72	1.86	1.99	2.51	2.20	1.72
Mourilyan	...	1.36	1.49	1.61	2.08	2.65		
Cairns	...	1.25	1.75	1.89	1.58	1.76		
Douglas	...	...	...	...	...	2.49	2.65	2.15

A table is also given showing the averages in weight of cane and weight of sugar per acre, and the quantity of cane required to make one ton of sugar, for the past year in each of the different districts, divided into three groups.

N d.
SUGAR AVERAGES, 1899.

District.	Tons of Cane per Acre Crushed.	Tons Sugar per Acre Crushed.	Tons of Cane per Ton of Sugar.
<i>Southern.</i>			
Bundaberg and Gin Gin	15.68	1.69	9.30
Childers, Maryborough, and Tiaro	20.19	1.92	10.52
Logan	13.92	1.13	12.27
Marburg and Rosewood	7.23	0.65	11.15
Maroochy and Gympie	16.80	1.70	9.88
Nerang	9.11	0.96	9.53
Total Southern	17.14	1.74	9.88
<i>Central.</i>			
Rockhampton	15.29	1.61	9.49
<i>Northern.</i>			
Ayr	13.86	1.35	10.30
Bowen	11.93	0.90	13.27
Cairns and Douglas	19.52	2.15	9.08
Ingham and Mourilyan	14.54	1.72	8.45
Mackay	9.09	0.96	9.51
Total Northern	12.86	1.40	9.20
Total Colony	14.81	1.55	9.54

In addition to the 79,435 acres crushed for sugar, 1,620 acres were used for plants, and 29,602 acres were allowed to stand over or were unproductive, so that the total area under sugar as a crop was 110,657 acres. There were other small areas planted in the colony, but these were distinctly intended for and their produce used as green food, and they have therefore been included in the fodder crops.

The quantity of sugar exported from 1st June, 1898, to 31st March, 1899, was ... 98,786 tons and if we take the requirements of Queensland at 25,000 ,

The total is 123,786 tons or 497 tons above the total output of 123,289 tons

As the estimate of 25,000 tons for home consumption is a very liberal one, there can, therefore, be very little doubt but that some of the 1898 crop remained on hand and was available for home use or exportation in addition to that of 1899.

Table Ne shows the net importations of sugar (cane and beet) and glucose of each colony for 1897 and 1898, the latter being the latest period for which Customs returns are yet available; the net importation of cane sugar for 1898 being nearly 10,000 tons below those of 1897.

The weight showing the net imports of New South Wales does not represent the consumption of sugar by that colony, as they produce a considerable quantity within their own boundaries, probably amounting for last season to approximately 17,000 tons.

N e.

RETURN showing the NET IMPORTS of SUGAR for each of the other AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES for the Years 1897 and 1898.

Colony.	1897.				1898.			
	Cane Sugar	Beet Sugar.	Glucose.	Total.	Cane Sugar.	Beet Sugar.	Glucose.	Total.
New South Wales	34,678		— 1,726	32,952	42,222	1,801	1,179	45,202
Victoria	56,597	50	216	56,863	46,188	6	1,066	47,260
South Australia	28,105		— 124	27,981	16,129	51	268	16,448
Western Australia	7,218		31	7,249	7,012	967	26	8,005
Tasmania	6,752		31	6,783	7,048	46	70	7,164
New Zealand	31,191		129	31,320	36,354	445	273	37,072
Totals	164,541	50	— 1,443	163,148	154,953	3,316	2,882	161,151

The minus sign (—) denotes an excess of Exports.

If we exclude New Zealand from this table as being supplied principally from Fiji, we find that the five other colonies together show net imports of 118,599 tons of cane sugar, which was 19,813 tons above the quantity exported by Queensland.

I am informed from official sources that the average yield of sugar from India (Bengal) is about one ton per acre, but that owing to drought only 80 per cent. of this is expected for the 1899 crop.

In several of the West Indian Islands the returns are estimated to be about one ton of sugar per acre, but in many the returns are approximate only, no exact data being obtainable.

In Java the returns are given at 39.3 tons of cane per acre, the produce of which gave three and nine-tenths tons of sugar per acre, and the quantity of cane to the ton of sugar to be ten tons. My informant further states: "The cane of the sugar estates, the product of which is intended for export, is, without single exception, planted in ground which can be irrigated."

"If water is indispensable for the success of the culture, it is also indispensable that this, according to requirements, should be able to be carried to the cane, and its regulation entirely in the hands of the planter."

"To provide for this, before the cane is planted a proper watering system is organised whereby it is possible to regulate the flow of water as required, thus being able to increase, decrease, or entirely shut off the supply if necessary."

"Seeing that cane in Java is planted in the dry season, is in the fields the following west monsoon and harvested in the consequent east monsoon, it therefore follows that in the greater or lesser flow and necessity of irrigation water is a great deal dependent on climate; but it can be generally taken that the young plants require an over-abundance of water, while the cane in general requires an equal amount to attain to maturity."

"It must be taken into consideration that the planting here in a tropical climate requires certain other conditions than elsewhere where the influences of climate, &c., as the case may be, are different."

The number of manufactories in connection with this industry in Queensland are—

Refineries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sugar making	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Crushing only	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71

The number of sugar-mills to which advances have been made under the Sugar Works Guarantee Act is 13 as well as one tramway company, the total amount of advance being £541,204, and the total indebtedness up to 31st December, 1899, including interest, £549,442.

The quantity of molasses produced in 1898 and 1899 was as under:—

		1898.	1899.
Southern	...	1,843,986	1,713,630
Central	...	60,000	30,000
Northern	...	2,094,300	1,348,941
Total	...	3,998,286	3,092,571

But little use is made of the molasses, which is usually allowed to escape into creeks and rivers.

The Customs return of molasses and syrups, as exported for the past year, totalled 1,472 tons 3 cwt. and 4 lb., of a value of £11,683, of which Victoria took 1,133 tons, New South Wales 162 tons, and New Zealand 153 tons.

The bulk of this is probably syrup, but the whole is a mere fraction of the 3,000,000 tons produced.

There are six distilleries, all of which use molasses for the manufacture of spirits. Five of these are in the Southern and one in the Northern (Mackay) district.

ARROWROOT.

Compared with 1898, there was a falling off both in area and production of arrowroot in 1899. The cultivation is practically confined to the eastern portion of the Southern Division of the colony, there being only 4 acres of this root grown outside that portion of Queensland.

During 1898, 455 acres yielded 6,116 tons of tubers, whilst in 1899 from 431 acres 4,669 tons were obtained, leaving a shortage in area of 24 acres, and in yield of 1,447 tons. Similarly, whilst in 1898, 5,555 tons of roots were used for manufacture, and 875,640 lb. of arrowroot produced therefrom, in 1899 only 3,725 tons of roots were so used, for a yield of 706,938 lb. of arrowroot.

The largest producing centre of this class of farming is Nerang, where 299 acres produced 3,436 tons of roots; this is 1 acre less than the previous year, but the yield is less by 352 tons. Logan returns 98 acres, yielding 950 tons of tubers, a falling off compared with the previous year of 16 acres, and 1,115 tons of roots.

A full statement of area and crop for each Petty Sessions District in the Colony will be found in the Appendix Tables X. to XIV.

The following table shows the quantity and value of arrowroot, maizena, and cornflour imported into Queensland for the past three years:—

Year.	ARROWROOT.			MAIZENA AND CORNFLOUR.		
	Quantity.	lb.	Value.	Quantity.	lb.	Value.
1897	11,332	159	...	363,340
1898	12,952	163	...	300,742
1899	13,262	171	...	437,946

The importation of arrowroot being slightly, and of maizena and cornflour considerably, in excess of former years, both in quantity and value.

The quantity and value of arrowroot, &c., exported during each of the past three years was as under:—

Year.	ARROWROOT.			MAIZENA AND CORNFLOUR.		
	Quantity.	lb.	Value.	Quantity.	lb.	Value.
1897	282,334	3,404	...	1,393
1898	505,512	5,689	...	4,776
1899	497,115	4,228	...	1,676

There has been therefore a decrease in the export of arrowroot for 1899 as compared with the previous year of 8,397 lb. in weight and £1,461 in value.

TOBACCO.

Whilst several of the districts which returned tobacco for the year 1898 have dropped out for the present year, the returns otherwise are satisfactory. In 1898 there were eight districts in which tobacco was grown; in 1899 only four are so returned. The districts ceasing to return this crop are Etheridge, Herberton, Killarney, and Stanthorpe.

The total area of land under tobacco in 1898 was 617 acres, yielding 3,276 cwt. of cured leaf, whilst for 1899 the area is 745 acres, yielding 6,551 cwt., an increase of 21 per cent. in area and 100 per cent. in yield, whilst the yield in 1898 was 5·3 cwt. per acre, that of 1899 equal 8·8 cwt. per acre.

O.

District.										Area.	Produce (Dried Leaf).
										Acres.	Cwt.
Cape River	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
Inglewood	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69	621
Texas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	671	5,915
Townsville	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	9
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	745	6,551

The principal centre of production is Texas, where the area has increased from 529 acres, yielding 2,747 cwt. in 1898, to 671 acres, yielding 5,915 cwt. in 1899, being 90 per cent. in both area and yield of that of the whole Colony.

The Central division of the Colony returns no tobacco, whilst the Northern returns 5 acres for 15 cwt.

The quantities of tobacco imported and cleared for home consumption respectively for the years 1898 and 1899 are given below, and the large increase that has taken place under both heads may be taken to be a good indication of increased prosperity amongst the population.

O.a.

Year.	Tobacco, &c.	Imported.	Entered for Home Consumption.
1898	Manufactured	628,346	671,768
	Unmanufactured	38,983	48,246
	Cigars	59,118	57,755
	Cigarettes	56,850	56,336
	Snuff	590	579
	Total	783,887	834,684
1899	Manufactured	912,852	703,577
	Unmanufactured	44,054	45,761
	Cigars	85,669	69,780
	Cigarettes	74,801	68,434
	Snuff	484	343
	Total	1,117,860	887,895

The quantity of leaf tobacco imported for manufacturing purposes for 1899 was 44,054 lb. of a value of £1,985, as compared with 38,983 lb., value £1,681, for 1898, showing an increase for 1899 of 5,071 lb. in weight and £304 in value.

The quantity of tobacco manufactured in Queensland during 1899 was as under:—

Ob.

1898.			1899.	
	Lb.	Value.	Lb.	Value.
		£		£
Tobacco	492,884	44,737	607,333	53,558
Cigars	938	584	602	329
Cigarettes	15,175	5,311	22,756	6,827
Snuff	328	44	233	30
	509,325	50,676	630,924	60,744

From the above it will be seen that an increase in the value of goods manufactured amounting to £10,097 is shown for 1899.

Excise was paid on Queensland tobacco during 1898 and 1899 as under:—

Oc.

1898.			1899.	
	Lb.	£	Lb.	£
Tobacco	28,672	...	29,220	
Cigars	317	...	187	
Cigarettes	1,507	...	2,207	
Snuff	19	...	14	
	30,515	...	31,628	

I understand that the prospects of the forthcoming crop are distinctly bad, owing to drought.

COFFEE.

An advance of 63 acres of land under coffee is shown for last year, as compared with 1898, the total area being now 495 acres, of which 272 acres, or 55 per cent., are not yet in bearing.

The return has increased considerably on that of the previous year, being for the whole Colony 104,981 lb., against 56,552 lb. for 1898. The yield per acre has increased to an average of 470 lb. per acre of the productive area for the whole Colony, against 284 lb. for 1898. I am informed that 1,000 lb. weight of coffee per acre is considered a fair crop in Ceylon. As the trees in Queensland plantations get older and larger, the yield from them will, of course, be materially increased. The highest average yield per district given is that of Cairns, where 658 lb. per acre is returned. Nearly all the trees in this district are young, the larger number being only lately in bearing.

The greatest area under coffee is found to be in the Cairns district with 199 acres, of which 97 acres are not yet bearing fruit. Mackay returns 123 acres as being under coffee, none of which are yet in bearing. A portion of the Mareeba collection has in previous years been included with the Cairns returns, owing to the officer at Kuranda collecting in both districts, and last year for the first time discriminating between the returns. In 1899, Mareeba had 45 acres under coffee, of which 11 were unproductive. For purposes of comparison with previous years, therefore, Cairns and Mareeba should be taken together. If this is done, an increase of 35 acres in the joint districts is disclosed. An increase of 21 acres has taken place in Mourilyan district compared with 1898, whilst 22 acres still remain unproductive.

The Central district returns 6 acres as in 1898, and the Southern portion of the Colony returns 34 acres for 1899, against 39 acres for 1898, an increase of 6 acres at Maroochy being more than balanced by a reduction of 10 acres in South Brisbane. Some of the land formerly under coffee has been applied to other uses.

The coffee industry during the past year has developed principally along the coast from Mackay to Douglas, and the Cairns and Mareeba districts, where Kuranda is located, may be said to present the greatest progress. The rich volcanic soil on the hill sides, with the perfect drainage and absence from frost of this part of the Colony, evidently suits the requirements of this tree, and as there is an unlimited quantity of land available, a considerable extension of the industry may be looked for. Up to the present no difficulty has arisen from want of labour in the picking season, the aboriginal being available for the work, and has up to the present time been sufficient for the purpose. As the trees get older and the crop is more prolific, the demand for labour will be greater, and the troubles of the coffee-planter in this direction will begin.

A table is given below showing the return of each district, acreage, yield, and average for 1899:—

District.	P.		Yield.	Average Yield per Acre of Productive Area.
	Non-productive.			
	Acres.	Acres.	Lb.	Lb.
Cairns	...	97	102	67,143
Cook	29	3,050
Douglas	...	6	15	690
Herberton	...	2	...	...
Mackay	...	123	...	...
Mareeba	...	11	34	16,019
Maroochy	...	11	18	5,825
Maryborough	5	3,200
Mourilyan	...	22	14	6,400
Rockhampton	4	1,920
St. Lawrence	2	734
Total 1899	...	272	223	104,981
Total 1898	...	233	199	56,552
Increase for 1899	39	...	24	48,429
Decrease for 1899

The importation of coffee into Queensland was greater in 1899 than in either of the two preceding years, and a table is given below showing the imports and exports and net quantities and values for each of the years 1897, 1898, and 1899:—

	Coffee.	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.		NET IMPORTS.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
1897	Raw ...	...	...	104,901	4,606	658	42
	Roasted	...	...	52,955	2,617	4,365	205
	Total	...	...	157,856	7,223	5,023	247
1898	Raw ...	...	...	84,543	3,076	7,692	221
	Roasted	...	...	95,138	4,226	1,103	61
	Total	...	...	179,681	7,302	8,795	282
1899	Raw ...	...	...	128,480	4,055	7,921	252
	Roasted	...	...	89,122	4,204	804	38
	Total	...	...	217,602	8,259	8,725	290

From this it will be seen that the net weight of all coffee imported for 1899 was 208,877 lb., and, as the Queensland crop amounted to 104,981 lb., this Colony produced one-third of its requirements in this respect. As this result is from 223 acres, it follows that when the 272 acres now unproductive come into bearing, the Colony's consumption of coffee will not then be overtaken—*i.e.*, supposing the yield to equal the present one; but, as the trees bear more heavily as they increase in age, a much larger average per acre can be looked for in the future than the present one. At least 630 acres of trees, yielding on an average 500 lb. of coffee per acre, will be required to supply the home market even at the present low rate of consumption. A greater production of coffee will tend to a greater consumption of it as a drink, and lead to its taking the place (to some extent) of tea, which forms such a large item in the dietary of nearly everyone in the Colony. The present consumption, if taken as being represented by the quantity grown, added to that imported, would equal about $10\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of coffee per head for the year.

Contrasted with the quantity of tea used per head, we find that the quantity of coffee consumed in Queensland is only about one-eleventh part of the weight of tea used, for whilst the quantity of coffee averages as before given, about $10\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per head of population per annum, that of tea reaches $7\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per head per annum.

The cultivation of coffee seems to have attracted much attention in other parts of the world; for, in Brazil, the average amount exported for three years, up to 1896, having been about 5,500,000 bags; in 1897 it rose to 8,750,000 bags, and in 1898 to 10,500,000 bags. For the year ending this month, it is estimated that the crop will be about 9,500,000 bags. With a greatly increased production, not only in Brazil, but in many other places, it is no matter for surprise that prices fell, but owing, possibly, to increased consumption, have recovered again to some extent during the present year.

Up to the present coffee has been free from disease, and too much vigilance cannot be exercised to prevent the leaf disease which destroyed miles of valuable plantations in India, from obtaining a footing here.

VINES, GRAPES, AND WINE.

The greatest centre of grape production in Queensland is the district of Roma, which returns 518 acres of vines in bearing, being nearly one-third of the total area of bearing vines in the Colony. Owing to the drought the yield of grapes was very small during 1899, being 169,580 lb.—less than one-sixth of the previous year, and but little over one-tenth of that of 1896.

Fortunately other places did not suffer to a similar extent, and the yield of grapes for the whole Colony was 3,230,627 lb. for 1899, as against 4,116,218 lb in 1898, whilst the average yield per acre for 1899 was 1,850 lb. against 2,383 lb. for 1898.

The following table gives the areas, yield, and average for the years 1898 and 1899:—

Q.

Year.	Vineyards.			Grapes Gathered.	Average Yield.
	Acres Bearing.	Acres not Bearing.	Total.		
1898	1,727	293	2,020	4,116,218	2,383
1899	1,746	257	2,003	3,230,627	1,850

Compared with 1898 there have been increases in areas under grape vines in most of the centres, Rockhampton being the greatest with 49 acres, followed by Maryborough 19 acres, Gatton 12 acres, and Gympie 10 acres; whilst the principal decreases are at Warwick 35 acres, and Toowoomba 19 acres.

The Southern division of the Colony returns 1,601 acres of vines in bearing out of a total of 1,746 acres for the whole Colony, the area being almost equally divided between the eastern and western portions.

A table is given below showing the areas and yields for the years 1898 and 1899 of the principal districts:—

Q.a.

Petty Sessions District.	Area under Vines.									
	1898.			1899.			Increase + or Decrease - in 1898.	1898.	1899.	
	Bearing.	Not yet Bearing.	Total Area.	Bearing.	Not yet Bearing.	Total Area.		Grapes Gathered.	Grapes Gathered.	
Roma ...	461	102	563	518	47	565	+ 2	1,084,619	169,580	
Brisbane ...	132	2	134	124	6	130	— 4	280,126	278,844	
Toowoomba ...	128	17	145	117	9	126	— 19	490,071	395,250	
South Brisbane ...	128	3	131	115	8	123	— 8	321,435	323,589	
Rockhampton ...	50	9	59	82	26	108	+ 49	63,341	247,966	
Warwick ...	106	3	109	70	4	74	— 35	276,730	208,596	
Maryborough ...	42	9	51	60	10	70	+ 19	73,563	97,954	
Gatton ...	49	8	57	53	16	69	+ 12	177,790	104,558	
Logan ...	43	3	46	49	1	50	+ 4	92,392	139,086	
Marburg ...	38	5	43	43	1	44	+ 1	132,178	109,330	
Gympie...	24	6	30	31	9	40	+ 10	43,580	42,749	
Highfields ...	41	1	42	31	2	33	— 9	251,880	129,040	
Allora ...	24	3	27	30	2	32	+ 5	64,682	33,936	
Rosewood ...	23	17	40	28	13	41	+ 1	103,734	182,890	
Laidley ...	21	5	26	24	...	24	— 2	51,520	82,480	
Cleveland ...	12	4	16	17	3	20	+ 4	21,314	27,451	

A table is given below showing the average yield per acre in each of the five principal districts for the past four years, and from it will be seen how severe the season was in the Roma district, where the average fell from 3,306 lb. per acre in 1896 to 327 lb. in 1899. The yield in the other four districts may be taken as a fair average, but owing to the failure over such a large area as the Roma district the general average for the whole Colony was seriously reduced :—

	Q.b.			
	1896.	1897.	1898.	99.
	Average per Acre.	Average per Acre.	Average per Acre.	Average per Acre.
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
Toowoomba	... 5,542	... 5,197	... 3,829	... 3,378
Warwick	... 3,660	... 2,853	... 2,611	... 2,980
Brisbane	... 2,159	... 2,498	... 2,122	... 2,249
Roma	... 3,306	... 2,160	... 2,353	... 327
South Brisbane	... 1,601	... 2,102	... 2,511	... 2,814

No progress appears to have been made in drying grapes for raisins. A season of such short crops is certainly not the one for trying experiments of this nature.

So far the vineyards of Queensland seem to be quite healthy, and, though scale in various forms may be found, and *oidium* occasionally, so far no appearance of the dreaded *phylloxera* has been reported. The stringent regulations against the introduction of vine cuttings and grapes in bunches, carefully enforced by the Customs officials, have probably contributed principally to our continued immunity.

WINE-MAKING.

Wine-making has been carried on for years on a fairly large scale, but owing possibly to difficulties of climate, a class of wine has not been produced which for quality and price induced a large consumption. Undoubtedly a light wine is the best drink for this climate, but the light wine produced by the local makers does not command an increasing sale.

In proof of this may be cited the fact that the number of persons making wine has fallen to 512, being the smallest number for the past five years, whilst the quantity of wine made is now 131,045 gallons, or little more than one-half the quantity recorded for 1895.

A table showing the number of makers and quantity of wine and brandy made each year from 1895 is given below :—

Years.	Number of Makers.	Quantity of Wine Made.	Quantity of Brandy Distilled.
1895	661	238,208	1,259
1896	704	170,733	767
1897	722	207,745	994
1898	613	134,334	1,115
1899	512	131,045	615

In the return given below it will be seen that the district of Roma produced the largest quantity of wine during the past year, 6 makers returning 21,960 gallons, closely followed by Toowoomba, where 120 makers return 19,300 gallons. Brisbane, whose 24 makers return 11,810 gallons, shows an increase with respect to the number of makers, but the output was less than for any year since 1894. South Brisbane, with 38 makers, returning 10,384 gallons, is better than the previous year, although not reaching the number and output of years previous to that :—

Qd.

1899.			
Petty Sessions District.	Number of Makers.	Quantity of Wine Made.	Quantity of Brandy Distilled.
Roma	6	21,960	500
Toowoomba	120	19,300	...
Brisbane	24	11,810	70
South Brisbane	38	10,384	...
Rosewood	7	9,210	...
Highfields	40	6,412	...
Rockhampton	2	5,950	...
Gatton	24	5,177	...
Warwick	11	5,016	45
All other Districts	240	35,826	...
	512	131,045	615

Under present conditions it is evident that wine-making in Queensland is not making the strides forward that it has done in Victoria and South Australia, nor has the wine locally produced been anything near the requirements of this Colony. As pointed out in my Report of last year, co-operation would overcome many of the difficulties under which makers now labour, since the business is essentially one of time and waiting. Several years must always elapse between the time of making and maturity of the wine, and this involves capital. What is too often done instead of waiting, is placing the wine before the public for consumption in an immature condition. With co-operation, probably the centres of manufacture would be fewer and the appliances more perfect, whilst the facilities for the carriage of fruit from the vineyard to the cellars are now so complete that Roma-grown grapes frequently travel to Brisbane markets.

I am unable to obtain the quantities of wine imported from each colony into Queensland for the past year, but append the value as furnished by Customs returns.

Wine imported from Australasian colonies, 1899:—

							Value.
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,508
Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,413
South Australia	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,216
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	£7,137

BANANAS.

A considerable diminution, amounting to over one-fifth, has taken place in the quantity of this fruit produced during the past year, as compared with the previous year, and this although the area has increased by 538 acres.

The restrictions placed by the southern colonies on the importation of bananas has checked to a very considerable extent the development of the export trade to those places. A desire to prevent the introduction of the Fruit Fly led to a system of close inspection, and resulted in the condemnation of several cargoes of this fruit. It was doubtless the loss and delay caused by such action that has led to a reduction of area under bananas in the Cairns district, 480 acres less being cultivated there this past year, as compared with the previous year.

Cairns district is by far the largest producer of bananas in Queensland, the produce being four times greater than its near neighbour, Mourilyan, which again produces nine times more than Maroochy, which is the next on the list.

A return is appended below showing the area under cultivation, and the yield for the years 1898 and 1899 in each of the principal districts of the colony, and the area and yield of each Petty Sessions District in the colony can be seen in the Appendix Tables X. and XI. :—

R.

Petty Sessions District.	Area.		Production.		Increase + or Decrease—1899.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	Area.	Quantity.
Brisbane	Acres.	Acres.	Dozen.	Dozen.
Cairns	170	188	334,155	303,666
Cleveland	2,340	1,860	37,771,462	26,979,616
Cook	271	263	682,024	485,996
Logan	63	55	126,790	26,900
Maroochy	366	309	833,930	558,673
Maryborough	529	560	738,180	774,445
Mourilyan	126	139	112,661	117,360
Redcliffe	1,172	2,038	5,692,100	6,664,952
Somerset	30	61	18,220	12,770
			9	109	3,785	106,780
					Acres.	Dozen.
					+ 18	30,489
					— 480	10,791,846
					— 8	196,028
					— 8	99,890
					— 57	275,257
					+ 31	36,265
					+ 13	4,699
					+ 866	972,852
					+ 31	5,450
					+ 100	102,995

From the above it will be seen that increases in area have taken place at Mourilyan 866 acres, and Somerset 100 acres, and several smaller areas at other centres, whilst the principal decreases in area are at Cairns 480 acres, and Logan 57 acres.

As the losses in area are more than made up by increases at other places, it is to be hoped that with more favourable conditions in other respects, and a more careful inspection of fruit before shipment, the trade will soon recover its lost ground.

The value of the banana as an article of food is amply demonstrated in Stanley's books, where that traveller describes whole districts in Central Africa teeming with population, of whom it forms the staple article of diet, and where it seems to be the practice to eat the fruit only in an unripe state and after cooking it. The banana, it appears, is never eaten by these people uncooked or when ripe.

The manufacture of banana-meal, which at one time was much spoken of, does not appear so far to have attained to commercial success, nor has the evaporated or dried fruit found general favour up to the present.

The quantity and value of bananas exported cannot be ascertained, as they are included in one general heading with others as "Green Fruit," the value of which as exported during 1899 was £93,291.

PINEAPPLES.

There is a falling off in the cultivation of this fruit for the past year as compared with that of 1898, the decrease being represented by 136 acres and 61,060 dozen of fruit.

The great producing district for this fruit is Brisbane, the area there for 1899 having been increased by 6 acres over 1898, the yield having decreased by 22,968 dozen, whilst Cleveland with an increased area of 1 acre shows a decrease in yield of 29,639 dozen.

The principal decrease in area is at Cairns of 177 acres still, however, returning an increase in crop amounting to 9,496 dozen. Apparently the returns from this fruit have not given satisfaction to the Cairns growers, for most of the ground is stated to have had the plants ploughed out; nearly two-thirds of the area returned in 1898 appears to have been so treated.

The disease which has affected the pineapple plant was the subject of investigation by Dr. Maxwell on his visit here. It is to be hoped that the treatment recommended by him will restore the fruit itself to a sound and healthy condition, and the land will regain its former fertility. The results as recorded in the table given below are certainly not matters for congratulation:—

S.

District.	1898.		1899.		Increase + or - Decrease.	
	Acres.	Dozen.	Acres.	Dozen.	Acres.	Dozen.
Brisbane	458	233,164	464	210,196	+ 6	- 22,968
Cairns	284	72,878	107	82,374	- 177	+ 9,496
Charters Towers	24	2,240	12	1,440	- 12	- 800
Cleveland	63	57,186	64	27,547	+ 1	- 29,639
Cook	18	3,128	17	3,946	- 1	+ 818
Croydon	7	1,115	6	789	- 1	- 326
Douglas	8	554	7	672	- 1	+ 118
Logan	56	15,893	69	15,572	+ 13	- 321
Maryborough	23	15,008	36	6,914	+ 13	- 8,094
Maroochy	42	14,452	41	6,776	- 1	- 7,676
Mourilyan	12	4,420	35	4,550	+ 23	+ 130
Rockhampton	21	3,020	26	4,369	+ 5	+ 1,349

Full particulars of the area and yield in each Petty Sessions District in the Colony are given in the Appendix Tables X. to XIV.

ORANGES.

The total returns of this fruit for 1899 were 2,324 acres, yielding 1,420,839 dozen, against 2,272 acres, yielding 1,527,469 dozen for 1898, showing an increase in area for the past year of 52 acres, and a decrease of yield of 106,630 dozen.

Maroochy district has the greatest area of land (377 acres) under oranges for the past year, but as no less than 186 acres of this is returned for the first time, it is evident that the yield returned, 129,801 dozen, must be from areas planted some time previously. Only 76 acres of trees were returned in 1898, and therefore trees planted subsequently can scarcely yet be in full bearing. It is quite evident that the results obtained from orangeries in past years have been of such an encouraging character as to lead to a considerable extension of the industry.

Maryborough returned 271 acres for 1899, yielding 197,640 dozen, showing an increase in area over 1898 of 67 acres, and in yield 104,778 dozen.

These two districts return the largest areas and yield of oranges of any in the Colony, and the orange tree has evidently been found suitable for the soil and climate.

Bowen shows an increase of area equal to 38 acres. Some of the largest orangeries are near the Don River, and the trees are regularly irrigated. A splendid quality of orange is produced, the Mandarins being a speciality; and, as the fruit is marketable some time before that grown in the South, it meets ready sale before Southern competition sets in.

A considerable decrease in area appears at Cairns (147 acres), where the trees have been ploughed out. Douglas also shows a decrease of 21 acres.

Undoubtedly the more Northern portions of the Colony are trying to this tree, and it will only retain its health and vigour there when it receives great care and attention. Unless regularly watered, either by rain or artificially, kept clear of the many insect pests that attack it, well manured, and has a good porous subsoil, the orange will not flourish, and it is only waste of time to try and grow the tree. Given all these conditions, and good fruit in abundance can be produced there.

Fortunately climatic conditions enable the Queensland grower to supply the southern markets at a time when the southern crop is not yet ripe, and the Queensland crop is usually exhausted before the fruit grown in New South Wales comes into competition with it.

The table given below gives the area and yield for the principal centres for the years 1898 and 1899, and columns showing increases and decreases in both cases. Full particulars of area and yield for each Petty Sessions District in the Colony are given in the Appendix Tables, Nos. X. to XIV.

T.

Petty Sessions District.	Area.		Production.		Increase + or Decrease - in 1899.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	Area.	Production.
Bowen ...	103	141	88,106	88,210	+ 38	+ 104
Brisbane ...	68	64	73,665	50,584	- 4	- 23,081
Bundaberg ...	17	39	8,012	12,910	+ 22	+ 4,898
Caboolture ...	42	40	10,710	4,250	- 2	- 6,460
Cairns ...	229	82	196,756	91,730	- 147	- 105,026
Cardwell ...	75	61	16,326	41,246	- 14	+ 24,920
Charters Towers ...	46	37	25,840	30,590	- 9	+ 4,750
Cleveland ...	85	79	67,850	70,663	- 6	+ 2,813
Cook ...	52	62	61,420	34,502	+ 10	- 26,918
Douglas ...	97	76	56,400	61,614	- 21	+ 5,214
Gatton ...	128	123	112,740	32,646	- 5	- 80,094
Gympie ...	45	57	24,310	26,840	+ 12	+ 2,530
Herberton ...	26	21	9,450	31,526	- 5	+ 22,076
Hughenden ...	23	32	7,136	15,210	+ 9	+ 8,074
Logan ...	60	60	37,451	50,580	...	+ 13,129
Maroochy ...	191	377	59,286	129,801	+ 186	+ 70,515
Maryborough ...	204	271	92,862	197,640	+ 67	+ 104,778
Nerang ...	112	95	63,070	72,877	- 17	+ 9,807
Redcliffe ...	57	54	30,660	39,980	- 3	+ 9,320
Rockhampton ...	94	112	48,831	63,272	+ 18	+ 14,441
Roma ...	26	21	11,332	4,170	- 5	- 7,162
South Brisbane ...	46	18	18,370	7,500	- 28	- 10,870
Tiaro ...	38	40	16,960	33,795	+ 2	+ 16,835
Toowoomba ...	52	44	75,703	41,374	- 8	- 34,329
Townsville ...	26	25	19,967	4,500	- 1	- 15,467

MANGOES.

The past year of 1899 appears to have been an off year for mangoes, for, whilst the area has been increased in most places (only 3 districts of those enumerated exhibiting a decrease), yet the yield shows a considerable diminution. It has often been stated that this tree only bears freely every second year, and if so a heavier crop may be looked for during the current year.

A considerable falling off has taken place at Rockhampton in the area under this fruit, no less than 25 acres less being returned for 1899, as compared with the previous year, whilst the yield has fallen to one-half during the same period.

The mango-tree flourishes throughout the coastal districts of Queensland, but attains its greatest perfection in the more Northern portion of the Colony. Whilst this fruit does not readily lend itself to carriage, yet it enters so largely into many of the condiments especially used in hot climates that a large consumption of the fruit may be looked for. Mango chutney is largely used all over the world, and an unlimited supply of fruit of splendid quality can be produced whenever a profitable outlet for it can be shown to exist.

The table given below shows the area and yield for the principal centres in the Colony, comparing years 1898 and 1899.

U.

Petty Sessions District.	Area.		Production.		+ Increase. - Decrease.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1899.	1899.
Brisbane ...	1	7	330	5,135	+ 6	+ 4,805
Bundaberg ...	8	19	700	3,775	+ 11	+ 3,075
Cairns ...	10	25	100,000	62,767	+ 15	- 37,233
Cleveland ...	8	22	1,569	1,956	+ 14	+ 387
Cook ...	16	26	41,190	20,396	+ 10	- 20,794
Ingham ...	5	17	3,720	16,250	+ 12	+ 12,530
Logan ...	9	5	398	1,160	- 4	+ 762
Mackay ...	12	12	10,319	8,100	...	- 2,219
Maryborough ...	16	16	5,295	1,940	...	- 3,355
Mourilyan ...	12	15	7,350	...	+ 3	- 7,350
Palmer ...	2	5	2,500	6,000	+ 3	+ 3,500
Rockhampton ...	58	33	21,743	11,460	- 25	- 10,283
Townsville ...	22	26	33,860	42,820	+ 4	+ 8,960
Other Districts ...	35	17	37,470	9,315	- 18	- 28,155
Total ...	214	245	266,444	191,074	+ 31	- 75,370

STRAWBERRIES.

The area under cultivation and quantity of this delicious fruit now produced are on the increase, the area having increased by 12 acres, while the output has considerably more than doubled. During 1898 the area under cultivation was 75 acres, which in 1899 had increased to 87 acres, whilst the output of 1898 of 83,306 quarts had increased in 1899 to 185,870 quarts.

The greatest centre of production is the Blackall Ranges, in the Marocchy district, the rich soil of which seems peculiarly adapted to the growth of this plant, whilst the cool climate obtained at this altitude seems to bring the fruit to the greatest perfection. Fifty-eight acres are under strawberries in this district out of the 87 acres for the whole Colony, equal to 67 per cent. of area, whilst the yield from these totals 141,287 quarts, or 76 per cent. of the whole crop.

A table is given below showing the yield for each district, with area under crop, for years 1898 and 1899:—

V.

Petty Sessions District.	Area.		Production.		Increase +.	Decrease -.			
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1899.	1899.			
	Acres.	Acres.	Quarts.	Quarts.	Acres.	Quarts.			
Brisbane	3	5	4,677	11,661	+	2	6,984
Bundaberg	2	4	1,400	3,490	+	2	2,090
Cleveland	8	8	10,518	20,560	...		10,042
Gympie	2	...	560	+	2	560
Ipswich	4	4	2,680	2,000	...		680
Logan	2	1	184	660	-	1	476
Maroochy	50	58	61,325	141,287	+	8	79,962
Redcliffe	1	1	210	172	...		38
South Brisbane	3	3	1,880	4,480	...		2,600
Townsville	1	1	392	1,000	...		608
Warwick	1	...	40	...	-	1	40
Total	75	87	83,306	185,870	+	12	102,564

Great care has to be taken in marketing this fruit, but a good outlet for the second quality is found amongst the jam manufacturers, whilst the best fruit finds ready sale at fair prices to fruiterers.

OTHER FRUITS.

In addition to the particulars given as to some of the fruits produced in the largest quantities already particularised, a table will be found in the Appendix (No. XV.) showing area and yield of all other fruits.

Of these, apples are returned at 132 acres, yielding 3,306 bushels, being a decrease of 25 acres since the previous year. Stanthorpe has 101 acres under apples, and is the greatest producer of this fruit. Apricots return 9 acres (all on the Darling Downs), yielding 193 bushels; cherries, 13 acres, are only credited with 36 bushels of fruit; cocoanuts, 509 acres, includes an area of 500 acres planted in the Somerset district, and which returned 4,750 dozens of nuts; gooseberries (Cape) show an increase from 36 acres to 94 acres; lemons have increased by 3 acres, and a corresponding increase in yield. This fruit, although easily grown in every part of the Colony, is not produced in sufficient quantities to prevent the introduction of large numbers of lemons grown elsewhere. Growers do not seem to keep the fruit to allow the juice to develop and ripen after gathering, as is done in other places. Melons show a decrease, being 133 acres, yielding 17,487 dozens for 1899, against 170 acres for 20,161 dozens in 1898; quinces, 2 acres, yielding 207 bushels; guavas, 1 acre, yielding 154 bushels; passion fruit, 17 acres (Cleveland and Logan districts), yielding 4,058 bushels; peaches, 38 acres, yielding 675 bushels; persimmons, 16 acres (principally Ipswich district), yielding 170 bushels; plums (entirely grown in the Southern division of the Colony), 69 acres, yielding 1,540 bushels.

Fruitgrowers have much to contend with in Queensland as elsewhere. Not only do insect pests flourish, attacking both trees and fruit, but the ravages of the gigantic bat, commonly known as the flying-fox, is a serious and increasing trouble. It seems useless to try to exterminate these creatures by shooting, trapping, or poisoning, and they now levy a great tax on all fruit grown in every part of the Colony.

If they can be successfully inoculated with chicken cholera or some other form of disease not communicable to domestic animals, which would extirpate them, a great service would be rendered to the Colony generally. Whenever the adjacent scrubs afford them secure breeding-grounds, and the orchards increase their food supply, their numbers seem incalculable, and it seems hopeless to attack them by any ordinary method.

VEGETABLES, &c.

On the same table in the Appendix (No. XV.), will be found a return of vegetables grown in the Colony apart from the productions of small areas in market gardens. The principal items are: Cabbages, 227 acres for 80,032 dozens; cucumbers, 118 acres for 46,403 dozens; peas, 36 acres for 2,797 bushels; onions, 51 acres for 2,964 cwt.; tomatoes, 134 acres for 4,561 cwt.; turnips, 78 acres for 1,004 tons; yams and taro, 201 acres for 51 tons; chicory, 12 acres for 60 tons; cowpea, 48 acres for 5,030 bushels.

Comparing these returns with those of the previous years, the increase in farming of this description has been gradual only. The Chinese are not displaced as producers of vegetable products although it is stated on good authority that they are large buyers of the same in the markets, their perfect organisation for distribution enabling them to buy what white men have grown to supplement their own productions, and retail the same profitably. Under existing circumstances the largest profits, usually remain with the middlemen, represented in this case by the Chinamen.

BROOM MILLET.

Broom millet, as an agricultural product, does not seem to have advanced very much during the past year. In 1898 there were 7 acres returned as under broom crops—*i.e.*, broom as distinguished from seed, and the product was 2,982 lb. of straw. For the past year 8 acres, yielding 6,960 lb., are returned; a considerable advance in yield, but not representing the whole of the millet broom produced in Queensland.

The manufacturers' returns show that they used Queensland grown millet for broom-making to the extent of about 10 tons of 2,000 lb., whilst the total returned to this Department as being produced is only 2 tons 3 cwt. 16 lb. It follows, therefore, that some millet must have been grown on areas too small to return on the ordinary forms, and that these small patches in the aggregate produce some 7 tons of broom.

The quantity and value of broom millet returned by the Customs as imported during 1899 was:—

		Packages.	Value.
From New South Wales ...	...	293	£1,964
From United States of America...	...	18	103
Total ...	...	311	£2,067

The weight is not given, but is estimated to be about 90 tons.

As pointed out last year, this seems to be one of our neglected industries, for since the very best quality of millet for broom-making can be grown here, there is no reason why the finished article should not be produced entirely within the Colony in such quantities as would supply all requirements.

The value of brooms imported during 1899 is included with that of brushware, of which there were 1,110 packages, value £9,233, imported. Of this value £6,862 is stated to be the product of the United Kingdom, and £2,462 to be of foreign origin.

HAY AND GREEN FORAGE CROPS.

HAY.

Owing principally to the frost experienced in the wheat-growing districts, there has been a great increase in the quantity of hay produced in 1899 as compared with the previous year, wheat hay showing an increase of 31,467 tons; oaten, an increase of 5,953 tons; barley, 493 tons; and rye, 48 tons, whilst lucerne shows a falling off to the extent of 3,619 tons, and panicum, 1,272 tons.

The frost undoubtedly led many farmers to cut their wheat for hay, as they considered the prospect of getting a fair yield of grain from it to be hopeless.

The yield of wheaten hay for the whole Colony averaged 1.30 tons per acre for 1899 against 0.91 tons for 1898.

In South Australia the yield of wheaten hay is stated to be an average of 0.74 tons per acre, and the total yield 229,800 tons.

Only oaten, lucerne, and "other grasses" hay yielded over 2 tons per acre, and this yield was not obtained in all the districts.

The greatest quantity of oaten hay was produced in the eastern portion of the Southern Division, where 14,607 tons were produced in 1899, an increase of 1,718 tons over 1898; in the western portion 3,863 tons were mown in 1899, as against 1,212 tons for 1898, being an increase for 1899 of 2,651 tons. The East Central also shows an increase for 1899 of 1,600 tons. The average yield for the whole Colony of oaten hay being 2.02 tons per acre for 1899, against 1.73 tons per acre for 1898.

Lucerne hay was produced in the greatest quantity in the eastern portion of the Southern Division of the Colony, where the area under this crop was increased in the past year by 1,125 acres, and the produce by 1,470 tons of hay, as compared with 1898.

In the western portion there was a falling off during the past year to the extent of 2,116 acres and 5,140 tons of hay as compared with 1898, caused principally by the lucerne having been used for green food, instead of being made into hay, which transfers it from these tables to those of green crops.

The area and production of the eastern portion of Central Queensland for 1899 was nearly the same as for the previous year, whilst the amount of lucerne cultivated in other portions of the Central and Northern Districts was small.

The total area mown for hay of all kinds throughout the Colony for 1899 was 58,939 acres, yielding 103,409 tons, against 35,263 acres, yielding 70,235 tons, for 1898.

X.

RETURN showing the TOTAL EXTENT of LAND CULTIVATED for HAY, together with the YIELD of HAY in each of the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the Colony of Queensland, during the Year 1899.

PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS.	HAY.																
	Wheat.		Oats.		Barley.		Rye.		Lucerne.		Panicum.		Other Sown Grasses.		Total all Kinds.		
	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.	
SOUTHERN.																	
<i>East of Main Range.</i>																	
Beaudesert	189	422	2	7	...	1	1	153	523	24	53	10	42	378	1,047
Biggenden	3	5	73	87	4	11	138	772	20	30	4	32	91	141
Brisbane	...	...	598	1,477	4	8	4	11	153	683	51	137	...	...	768	2,330
Bundaberg	12	36	165	431	1	3	5	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	387	1,300
Caboolture	6	18	50	113	3	5	1	2	9	27	...	...	...	...	69	165
Childers	...	...	137	460	...	...	4	8	7	18	...	...	...	...	148	486
Cleveland	...	...	19	38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	38
Crow's Nest (part of)	46	88	26	76	4	5	...	...	23	85	...	...	...	...	99	254
Dugandan	43	83	122	260	18	32	51	83	387	769	24	43	...	...	645	1,270
Eidsvold	2	2	42	66	...	...	...	...	9	23	17	29	...	...	70	120
Esk	...	...	106	228	14	12	4	61	175	528	4	17	...	...	303	846
Gatton	543	720	515	786	48	62	133	241	1,936	4,873	228	405	1	2	3,404	7,089	
Gayndah	...	...	46	112	1	3	...	...	5	9	16	39	4	2	71	162
Gin Gin	7	8	57	128	...	...	...	...	11	39	4	4	...	...	80	182
Goodna	3	3	61	103	...	...	1	1	39	101	12	17	...	...	116	225
Gympie	...	...	529	1,034	...	...	5	10	95	279	11	15	9	13	649	1,351
Harrisville	26	30	662	1,014	7	13	19	44	892	1,798	298	477	2	3	1,906	3,379	
Ipswich	...	...	311	718	8	16	...	...	461	1,963	4	7	2	3	786	2,707
Laidley	226	348	198	375	15	20	40	68	2,817	10,379	124	271	8	40	3,428	11,501	
Logan	3	9	184	398	...	...	1	2	48	225	23	47	1	2	260	683
Marburg	...	...	160	331	14	23	30	59	349	765	39	53	...	...	592	1,231
Maroochy	...	...	55	168	1	3	...	...	1	5	...	...	...	...	57	176
Maryborough	2	3	421	1,018	3	4	16	29	72	237	31	45	...	...	545	1,336
Nanango	188	256	39	62	1	1	...	...	40	57	31	59	...	...	299	435
Nerang	...	...	204	393	4	8	8	4	36	146	9	21	...	...	261	572
Redcliffe	...	...	570	1,169	3	3	...	...	137	559	30	53	...	...	740	1,784
Rosewood	41	73	298	529	4	7	21	35	365	729	104	187	...	...	833	1,560
South Brisbane	2	5	606	1,190	4	6	...	...	221	1,346	128	299	7	21	968	2,867
Taroom	1	1	26	47	1	2	...	...	...	...	29	27	...	...	57	77
Tenningering	...	...	15	28	...	...	2	6	2	10	2	2	...	...	21	46
Tiaro	4	10	440	1,109	5	9	64	149	114	435	6	11	...	...	633	1,723
Woodford	...	...	82	237	...	...	...	...	14	51	1	3	...	...	97	291
Total East	1,158	1,698	7,006	14,607	165	252	410	824	8,716	27,465	1,277	2,368	48	160	18,780	47,374	
Average yield per acre (tons)	1.47	2.06	...	...	1.52	2.01	...	...	3.15	...	1.85	...	3.33	...	2.52	...
<i>West of Main Range.</i>																	
Adavale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Allora	6,730	8,396	477	1,974	53	51	2	3	2,760	2,308	41	45	...	...	10,063	11,877
Augathella	...	...	...	...	12	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	12
Bollon	...	...	5	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
Charleville	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Condamine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Crow's Nest (part of)	52	70	9	20	15	15	...	...	39	71	...	...	...	...	115	176
Cunnamulla	61	58	10	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71	70
Dalby	1,196	1,360	30	34	59	58	1	3	62	53	...	...	...	...	1,348	1,508
Diamantina (part of)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eulo	...	...	146	158	9	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	163	180
Goondiwindi	...	...	1,115	1,585	157	605	14	13	26	30	485	582	2	4	1,799	2,819
Hungerford	68	48	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	69	52
Inglewood	345	491	8	10	6	6	...	...	76	102	1	2	...	...	436	611
Killarney	622	730	16	23	...	...	...	...	256	611	...	...	...	...	894	1,364
Mitchell	200	92	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	6	...	...	210	98
Roma	853	622	5	1	5	2	...	1	3	...	...	13	12	...	876	637
St. George	194	193	14	10	...	...	1	3	...	...	18	9	...	...	227	215
Southwood	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stanthorpe	25	24	64	65	...	...	...	...	61	78	8	6	...	...	158	173
Surat	89	83	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89	83
Tambo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Texas	131	141	11	16	...	...	...	...	29	57	1	1	...	...	172	215
Thargomindah	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Toowoomba	8,412	11,191	863	1,320	253	282	8	9	3,318	3,813	56	64	1	1	12,911	16,680	
Warwick	4,383	6,583	383	649	47	57	13	17	2,649	5,549	...	...	...	...	7,475	12,855
Windorah (part of)	...	...	90	106	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	9	...	...	104	115
Total West	24,717	31,932	2,069	3,863	452	484	51	65	9,744	13,239	162	154	3	5	37,198	49,742	
Average yield per acre (tons)	1.29	1.87	...	...	1.07	1.27	...	...	1.36	...	0.95	...	1.66	...	1.34	...
Total Southern Division	25,875	33,630	9,075	18,470	617	736	461	889	18,460	40,704	1,439	2,522	51	165	55,978	97,116	
Average yield per acre (tons)	1.30	2.04	...	...	1.19	1.93	...	...	2.20	...	1.76	...	3.23	...	1.73	...
CENTRAL.																	
<i>East of Main Range.</i>																	
Banana	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Clermont	48	38	75	58	...	...	...	...	14	28	8	10	3	6	80	68
Emerald	...	...	4	5	...	...	...	...	44	296	...	...	...	...	74	81
Gladstone	...	...	26	38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70	334
Mackay (Nebo collection)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mount Morgan	...	...	18	62	3	6	25	30	510	1,386	134	249	...	...	19	66
Rockhampton	85	170	1,380	2,835	3	6	25	30	510	1,386	134	249	...	...	2,137	4,676
St. Lawrence	...	...	3	5	...	...	...	...	2	8	...	...	...	...	5	13
Springsure	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	...	...	2	4
Total East	133	208	1,507	3,004	3	6	25	30	572	1,724	145	265	3	6	2,388	5,243	
Average yield per acre (tons)	1.56	1.99	...	...	2.00	1.55	...	...	3.01	...	1.83	...	2.00	...	2.20	...

X—continued.

RETURN showing the TOTAL EXTENT of LAND CULTIVATED for HAY, together with the YIELD of HAY in each of the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the Colony of Queensland, during the Year 1899—continued.

PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS.		HAY.															
		Wheat.		Oats.		Barley.		Rye.		Lucerne.		Panicum.		Other Sown Grasses.		Total all Kinds.	
		Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.	Acres.	Tons.
<i>West of Main Range.</i>																	
Alpha	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Aramac	...	...	...	9	18	144	201	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	153	219
Barcaldine	...	...	30	35	30	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	15	...	80	85
Blackall	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Boulia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diamantina (part of)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Isisford	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Longreach	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Muttaburra	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Windorah (part of)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Winton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total West	...	39	53	176	239	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	15	...	...	235	307
Average yield per acre (tons)		1.36	1.36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.75	...	...	...	1.31	
Total Central Division	...	172	261	1,683	3,243	3	6	25	30	572	1,724	165	280	3	6	2,623	5,550
Average yield per acre (tons)		1.52	1.93	...	2.00	...	1.20	...	3.01	...	1.70	...	2.00	...	...	2.12	
<i>NORTHERN, East of Range.</i>																	
Ayr	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
Bowen	...	...	...	...	14	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	15	19	47	
Cairns	...	...	...	...	7	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	10	
Cardwell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cook	...	...	...	...	6	4	...	...	...	...	3	10	...	...	...	9	14
Douglas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ingham	...	...	...	...	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	
Mackay (less Nebo collection)	...	...	...	...	49	97	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49	97
Mareeba	...	...	...	...	7	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	11	
Mourilyan	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	
Somerset	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	34	9	25	...
Townsville	...	...	...	...	3	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36	65	
Total East	...	...	...	92	170	...	...	...	...	3	10	24	34	14	40	133	254
Average yield per acre (tons)		...	1.85	...	...	...	...	...	3.33	...	1.42	...	2.85	...	1.91		
<i>West of Range.</i>																	
Burke	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Camooweal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cape River	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Charters Towers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cloncurry	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croydon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Etheridge	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Herberton	...	...	...	135	302	...	...	...	...	56	156	...	...	2	4	193	462
Hughenden	...	...	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	
Norman	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Palmer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ravenswood	...	...	...	...	8	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	25	
Thornborough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total West	...	...	...	147	329	...	...	...	...	56	156	...	...	2	4	205	489
Average yield per acre (tons)		...	2.24	...	...	...	...	...	2.79	...	...	...	2.00	...	2.39		
Total Northern Division	...	...	239	499	...	...	...	...	59	166	24	34	16	44	338	743	
Average yield per acre (tons)		...	2.09	...	...	...	...	...	2.81	...	1.42	...	2.75	...	2.20		
Grand Total { 1899...	26,047	33,891	10,997	22,212	620	742	486	919	19,091	42,594	1,628	2,836	70	215	58,939	103,409	
1898...	2,664	2,424	9,358	16,159	152	249	483	871	20,095	46,213	2,411	4,108	100	211	35,263	70,235	
Increase in 1899	...	23,383	31,467	1,639	5,953	468	493	3	48	...	...	1,004	3,619	783	1,272	23,676	33,174
Decrease in 1899	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	...	...	...	...
Average yield per acre (tons)		1.30	2.02	...	1.20	...	1.89	...	2.23	...	1.74	...	3.07	...	1.75		

GREEN CROPS.

The total areas under green crops for each district of the Colony for 1899 are as under:—

				Acres.	Acres.
Southern, east of the Main Range	...	...	...	14,036	
Southern, west	”	”	...	20,341	
					34,377
Central, east	”	”	...	290	
Central, west	”	”	...	30	
					320
Northern, east	”	”	...	753	
Northern, west	”	”	...	64	
					817
Total for the Colony	...	...	...	35,514	

Compared with 1898 there was in the whole Colony an increase on—

	Acres.
Wheat	629
Oats	386
Barley	1,240
Rye	209
Maize	261
Lucerne	8,119
Total	10,844
—	
Sugar-cane	152
Sorghum	259
Panicum	115
Other grasses	1,784

and decreases on—

This increase occurs principally in the western portion of the Southern Division of the Colony, and largely in the Toowoomba portion of that division. As there is a considerable reduction of the area returned for that district under lucerne hay, it is probable that the same land which was mown for hay in 1898 was cut for green food in 1899, and that the area is not affected although the use of the crop is put to transfers it from one table to the other.

The following tables show the area of land under green crops in each Petty Session District in the Colony, divided into districts:—

Xa.

RETURN showing the TOTAL EXTENT of LAND CULTIVATED for GREEN CROPS in each of the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the Colony of Queensland, during the Year 1899.

Xa—continued.

RETURN showing the TOTAL EXTENT of LAND CULTIVATED for GREEN CROPS in each of the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the Colony of Queensland, during the Year 1899—continued.

PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS.	GREEN CROPS.											
	WHEAT, OATS, BARLEY, RYE, MAIZE, SUGAR-CANE, SORGHUM, LUCERNE, PANICUM, OTHER, TOTAL ALL KINDS.											
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
<i>West of Main Range.</i>												
Adavale	2,672
Allora	...	437	44	279	1	132	...	52	1,695	32	...	...
Augathella	6
Bollon	6	...	...	...	9
Charleville	7	...	...	2	14
Condamine	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Crow's Nest (part of)	...	8	12	44	3	8	...	3	19	...	...	...
Cunnamulla
Dalby	...	192	6	38	25	105	...	56	265	1	24	712
Diamantina (part of)
Eulo
Goondiwindi	...	3	...	1	3	8	...	10	2	...	...	27
Highfields	...	14	20	96	19	158	...	83	342	...	...	732
Hungerford	4	...	...	4
Inglewood	...	1	9	10	3	58	...	5	2	...	...	88
Killarney	...	13	2	3	...	111	...	...	39	...	...	168
Mitchell	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	25	...	...	...	38
Roma	...	233	...	22	14	89	...	22	3	1	...	384
St. George	4	15	7	...	1	...	...	27
Southwood
Stanhope	...	3	2	1	2	...	...	4	2	...	4	18
Surat	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tambo
Texas	4	1	8	...	1	...	...	14
Thargomindah	1	...	...	1
Toowoomba	...	344	379	1,692	120	882	...	356	7,812	86	630	12,301
Warwick	...	209	41	138	12	134	...	170	2,169	19	9	2,901
Windorah (part of)	75	...	4	...	8	...	39	...	...	126
Total West	...	1,545	530	2,337	218	1,708	...	833	12,362	139	669	20,341
Total Southern Division	...	2,061	4,288	3,689	745	3,889	438	2,571	15,210	713	773	34,377
<i>CENTRAL.</i>												
<i>East of Main Range.</i>												
Banana	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	5
Clermont	2	...	...	14	...	1	...	18
Emerald	9	...	...	...	9
Gladstone	7	...	...	6	...	3	...	...	19
Mackay (Nebo collection)
Mount Morgan	2	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	6
Rockhampton	30	5	2	13	11	94	35	7	2	199
St. Lawrence	1	1	...	...	2
Springsure	...	14	6	...	...	4	...	1	7	...	...	32
Total East	...	14	51	5	2	37	11	110	51	7	2	290
<i>West of Main Range.</i>												
Alpha
Aramac
Barcaldine	1	2	...	6	...	...	4	...	...	9
Blackall	10	...	...	...	...	...	14
Boulia
Diamantina (part of)
Isisford
Longreach	7	...	...	7
Muttaburra
Windorah (part of)
Winton
Total West	1	2	...	16	...	...	11	...	...	30
Total Central Division	...	14	52	7	2	53	11	110	62	7	2	320
<i>NORTHERN.</i>												
<i>East of Range.</i>												
Ayr	12	53	2	...	...	67
Bowen	5	...	...	30	9	3	...	...	106	42
Cairns	51	...	51	24	38	...	...	...	224
Cardwell	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cook	5	...	...	...	...	3	8
Douglas	37	63	7	...	...	...	2	109
Ingham	...	5	1	...	19	83	93	...	2	1	...	204
Mackay (less Nebo collection)	20	...	...	20
Mareeba	56	2	...	...	...	...	58
Mourilyan	6	...	...	...	...	...	6
Somerset	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	8
Townsville
Total East	10	1	...	144	261	201	2	22	112	753

Xa—continued.

RETURN showing the TOTAL EXTENT of LAND CULTIVATED for GREEN CROPS in each of the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the Colony of Queensland, during the year 1899—continued.

PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS.	GREEN CROPS.										
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Maize.	Sugar-Cane.	Sorghum.	Lucerne.	Panicum.	Other.	Total all Kinds.
West of Range.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Burke
Camooweal
Cape River
Charters Towers	4	...	35	...	...	39
Cloneurry
Croydon
Etheridge	6	...	...	...	...	6
Herberton	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	10
Hughenden	3	2	...	9
Norman
Palmer	1	...	...	1
Ravenswood
Thornborough
Total West	2	...	...	10	...	39	3	...	10
Total Northern Division	12	1	...	154	261	240	5	22	122
Grand Total, 1899	...	2,075	4,352	3,697	747	4,096	710	2,921	15,277	742	897
,, 1898	...	1,446	3,966	2,457	538	3,835	862	3,180	7,158	857	2,681
Increase in 1899	...	629	386	1,240	209	261	...	...	8,119	...	8,534
Decrease in 1899	152	259	...	115	1,784

ARTIFICIALLY SOWN PASTURE.

The area of land laid down for pasture returned as being sown with grass seeds increased by one-half during the past year, the total acreage rising from 12,543 acres in 1898 to 19,204 acres in 1899. The greatest area under this heading appears in the western portion of the Southern Division, where 12,459 acres are returned, being 64·88 per cent. of the whole.

Whilst the figures for the eastern portion of the Southern Division are almost the same for 1898 and 1899, being 4,962 and 4,806 acres respectively, those for the western portion have increased from 5,848 acres in 1898 to 12,459 acres in 1899.

In the Central division 160 acres returned for Rockhampton in 1898 have fallen to 15 acres for 1899, whilst in the western portion two new areas are returned for 1899, being 70 acres at Barcaldine and 20 acres at Blackall.

In the eastern portion of the Northern division the area increased from 354 acres in 1898 to 732 acres in 1899, whilst the western decreased by 122 acres.

The largest increases in areas are recorded in the south at Toowoomba 4,669 acres, Redcliffe 1,105 acres, and Allora 1,088 acres.

There can be no doubt of the area of land under this heading increasing greatly from year to year as the necessity for keeping stock on smaller areas than formerly enforces itself on the farmer, but at the same time the figures necessarily fluctuate considerably from time to time, the column into which the areas are tabulated depending on the treatment of the crop—i.e., whether grazed off as indicated by the heading, or cut for hay or green food. With the steadily-increasing value of farming land more will have to be made out of it, and the smaller area, carrying a smaller number of animals, carefully selected and looked after, will give better results financially than the greater numbers did under the style of management now rapidly disappearing.

In New Zealand great returns are obtained from artificially sown pastures, the more regular rainfall of that colony allowing a greater number of animals to the acre to be grazed than probably could be done in Queensland, except in favourable seasons; but small paddocks, and frequent changing of stock from one paddock to another, gives the grasses in each time to recover, and freshens up the feed for the animals. The tendency of large paddocks with stock constantly in them is to show bare places in favourite parts, whilst the wetter portions with a ranker vegetation is left untouched. A considerable development under this heading may be looked for in connection with the extension of the dairy industry.

ENSILAGE.

The conservation of cattle food in the shape of ensilage was the subject of great expectation some time ago, but does not seem to have been found equal to the anticipations formed respecting it, or, it would certainly have made more progress than the returns for the past year show.

The idea of preserving in a palatable form quantities of surplus food which could be gathered in any kind of weather, and with less loss of time and trouble than it would take to make hay, whilst all kinds of vegetable products suitable for cattle food could be rendered available for feed for an indefinite period, was extremely inviting, especially to dairymen. That the results have not been up to expectation may be due to a variety of causes, but that they have failed to realise those expectations may readily be inferred from the want of progress evinced.

There was less ensilage returned for 1899 by 66 tons than for 1898, the figures being 1,554 tons for 1899, against 1,620 tons for 1898.

Rockhampton reports an increase for 1899 of 258 tons; Harrisville, 62 tons; and Caboolture, 25 tons; whilst Laidley shows a decrease of 120 tons; Allora, 100 tons, and several others to a lesser extent.

The following table shows the principal centres of production, with quantities:—

	Y.						Tons.
Rockhampton	808
Allora	100
Brisbane	85
Caboolture	65
Esk	60
Goodna	40
Harrisville	112
Roma	60
Rosewood	70
Toowoomba	60
From other districts	94
Total	1,554

It would be interesting to know why this form of food preservation does not make greater progress since the necessity of supplementing the natural grasses with other food, especially for milch cattle, is now fully recognised, and the silo presents a ready form of saving the surplus production of a good season for use in the following winter, and in a manner quite independent of weather. Perhaps when the method of controlling the temperature of the stack or pit is better understood, and the chances of failure reduced, its use will extend. The question of feeding stock will become more pressing every year, and this, or some other form of utilising what are now waste products, will become an important question.

J. HUGHES,
Registrar-General.

Statistical Office, 25th July 1900.

APPENDIX.

LIVE STOCK.

Table No. I.

RETURN of the NUMBER of HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, and PIGS, in the various PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS comprised in the SOUTHERN DIVISION of the Colony on the 31st DECEMBER, 1899.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Petty Sessions Districts.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Adavale	2,870	24,808	460,380	42	Laidley	3,165	14,325	969	,783
Allora	5,640	14,406	74,497	3,267	Logan	2,344	11,986	30	2,713
Augathella	2,172	28,408	132,186	39	Marburg	1,882	9,105	1	5,185
Beaudesert	4,705	46,055	298	6,073	Maroochy	1,722	8,736	133	1,303
Biggenden	1,365	15,645	...	570	Maryborough	5,565	22,268	3,356	2,324
Bollon	4,476	51,654	277,765	50	Mitchell	5,937	93,750	98,570	276
Brisbane	7,580	14,886	1,270	4,458	Nanango	5,511	85,000	6,810	1,603
Bundaberg	8,462	50,385	636	3,253	Nerang	2,325	11,764	112	3,250
Caboolture	1,069	7,625	96	1,599	Redcliffe	2,018	12,096	1	3,662
Charleville	3,707	37,707	220,059	354	Roma	5,404	74,860	123,228	705
Childers	2,357	4,450	504	1,164	Rosewood	2,975	20,136	205	5,270
Cleveland	715	2,174	90	521	St. George	4,189	8,067	559,636	147
Condamine	2,084	30,470	20,928	353	South Brisbane	3,620	9,119	519	2,805
Cow's Nest	2,762	18,089	294	3,280	Southwood	623	10,421	10,851	79
Cunnamulla	3,370	29,497	693,909	276	Stanthorpe	2,058	16,733	58,712	515
Dalby	7,890	40,053	561,229	2,674	Surat	2,242	19,935	244,646	94
Diamantina (one-half)	2,084	44,475	368	28	Tambo	2,707	19,645	362,481	49
Dugandan	3,575	23,357	126	4,566	Taroom	6,282	145,423	61,728	92
Eidsvold	3,461	74,757	16,928	321	Tenningering	1,711	22,255	80	431
Esk	5,417	68,974	1,034	3,473	Texas	1,248	8,020	2,698	246
Eulo	787	5,017	113,387	32	Thargomindah	9,879	217,030	359,363	196
Gatton	5,153	22,725	392	7,492	Tiaro	4,455	44,022	274	2,114
Gayndah	5,436	133,842	1,554	375	Toowoomba	12,693	46,295	625,827	7,808
Gin Gin	2,878	38,267	523	1,222	Warwick	8,216	35,154	184,537	4,355
Goodna	735	3,027	40	603	Windorah (one-half)	3,769	68,850	195,677	36
Goondiwindi	3,036	17,538	338,692	162	Woodford	2,121	19,751	212	1,376
Gympie	6,353	56,190	1,942	2,962	Yeulba	1,430	10,994	265	202
Harrisville	2,856	18,456	13,627	3,749	Total for 1899	221,479	2,042,387	6,080,238	113,001
Highfields	2,442	7,435	869	3,068	Total for 1898	229,259	2,241,946	7,261,419	103,256
Hungerford	1,069	1,796	177,914	...	Increase in 1899	...	...	...	9,745
Inglewood	2,555	18,726	67,374	403	Decrease in 1899	7,780	199,559	1,181,181	...
Ipswich	4,392	21,003	406	3,091					
Killarney	1,935	4,750	...	862					

Table No. II.

RETURN of the NUMBER of HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, and PIGS, in the various PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS comprised in the CENTRAL DIVISION of the Colony on 31st DECEMBER, 1899.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Petty Sessions Districts.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Alpha	5,670	97,821	56,437	421	Mount Morgan	2,154	9,864	97	490
Aramac	1,397	13,856	177,940	16	Muttaburra	5,599	38,704	1,346,335	26
Banana	4,311	92,537	17,897	48	Rockhampton	19,803	181,402	33,552	3,964
Barcaldine	3,570	9,468	560,602	316	St. Lawrence	6,025	118,540	970	438
Blackall	4,317	4,566	597,728	119	Springsure	8,242	138,417	388,196	363
Boulia	8,399	171,470	139,649	92	Windorah (one-half)	3,769	68,850	195,676	35
Clermont	12,124	150,802	753,934	769	Winton	9,671	98,334	796,185	95
Diamantina (one-half)	2,084	44,474	367	27	Total for 1899	128,272	1,484,370	6,904,226	9,892
Emerald	2,761	42,522	67,113	412	Total for 1898	128,869	1,654,469	8,433,378	10,017
Gladstone	7,366	86,336	5,925	996	Increase in 1899	...	...	...	...
Isisford	3,554	16,192	480,014	59	Decrease in 1899	597	170,099	1,529,152	125
Longreach	9,623	52,278	1,277,898	491					
Mackay (Nebo collection, say 6/11ths)	7,833	47,937	7,711	715					

Table No. III.

RETURN of the NUMBER of HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, and PIGS, in the various PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS comprised in the NORTHERN DIVISION of the Colony on 31st DECEMBER, 1899.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Petty Sessions Districts.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Ayr	4,076	17,845	1,120	1,571	Mourilyan	714	787	...	367
Bowen	10,210	84,092	2,898	949	Norman	7,027	241,480	30,240	385
Burke	6,630	134,864	...	152	Palmer	2,113	13,254	...	203
Cairns	2,114	2,924	65	1,021	Ravenswood	2,342	19,009	...	385
Camooweal	2,149	26,910	12,003	1	Somerset	82	173	...	102
Cape River	5,402	76,905	...	469	Thornborough	2,474	31,556	...	113
Cardwell	895	5,170	50	283	Townsville	4,822	17,404	99	1,884
Charters Towers	16,067	120,769	810	3,077	Total for 1899	129,376	1,527,079	2,242,015	16,225
Clonecurry	10,116	239,833	455,724	321	Total for 1898	122,341	1,674,877	1,857,811	13,808
Cook	4,036	26,912	...	671	Increase in 1899	7,035	...	384,204	2,417
Croydon	2,449	38,183	3	637	Decrease in 1899	...	147,798	...	...
Douglas	691	1,331	...	230					
Etheridge	6,289	73,501	...	221					
Herberton	6,154	44,199	128	697					
Hughenden	15,978	228,124	1,729,242	564					
Ingham	5,150	22,414	380	932					
Mackay (less Nebo collection, say 5/11ths)	9,458	57,519	9,253	859					
Mareeba	1,938	1,971	...	131	Increase in 1899	...	...	...	12,037
					Decrease in 1899	1,342	517,456	2,326,129	...

Table No. IV.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CATTLE and SHEEP in the various PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS comprised in the SOUTHERN DIVISION of the Colony for the Years 1898 and 1899, together with the INCREASE or DECREASE in the latter Year.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Cattle.				Sheep.			
	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
Adavale ...	40,223	24,808	...	15,415	516,823	460,380	...	56,413
Allora ...	16,309	14,406	...	1,903	67,676	74,497	6,821	...
Augathella ...	33,777	28,408	...	5,369	200,973	132,186	...	68,787
Beaudesert ...	47,270	46,055	...	1,215	198	298	100	...
Biggenden ...	15,573	15,645	72	...	2	...	...	2
Brisbane ...	14,127	14,886	759	...	1,022	1,270	248	...
Bundaberg ...	52,733	50,385	...	2,348	974	636	...	338
Caboolture ...	6,973	7,625	652	...	53	96	43	...
Charleville ...	69,514	37,707	...	31,807	315,968	220,059	...	95,909
Childers ...	4,000	4,450	450	...	1,055	504	...	551
Cleveland ...	1,829	2,174	345	...	182	90	...	92
Condamine ...	27,784	30,470	2,686	...	4,436	20,928	16,492	...
Crow's Nest ...	17,470	18,089	619	...	295	294	...	1
Cunnamulla ...	54,435	29,497	...	24,938	1,211,510	693,909	...	517,601
Dalby ...	41,972	40,053	...	1,919	490,629	561,229	70,600	...
Diamantina (one-half) ...	39,390	44,475	5,085	...	649	368	...	281
Dugandan ...	25,083	23,357	...	1,726	181	126	...	55
Eidsvold ...	70,338	74,757	...	1,581	16,580	16,928	348	...
Esk ...	69,375	68,974	...	401	1,066	1,034	...	32
Eulo ...	15,727	5,017	...	10,710	139,170	113,387	...	25,783
Gatton ...	24,626	22,725	...	1,901	395	392	...	3
Gayndah ...	146,837	133,842	...	12,995	2,836	1,554	...	1,282
Gin Gin ...	48,644	38,267	...	10,377	441	523	82	...
Goodna ...	2,615	3,927	412	...	88	40	...	48
Goondiwindi { Southwood ...	10,421	...	...	...	10,851	...	...	...
Goondiwindi }	34,858	17,538	...	6,899	338,986	338,692	10,557	...
Gympie ...	58,254	56,190	...	2,064	2,221	1,942	...	279
Harrisville ...	20,483	18,456	...	2,027	218	13,627	13,409	...
Highfields ...	7,372	7,435	63	...	773	869	96	...
Hungerford ...	1,620	1,796	176	...	226,879	177,914	...	48,965
Inglewood ...	17,226	18,726	1,500	...	66,470	67,374	904	...
Ipswich ...	18,735	21,003	2,268	...	643	406	...	237
Killarney ...	4,781	4,750	34	...	...	...	...	...
Laidley ...	10,751	14,325	3,574	...	522	969	447	...
Logan ...	11,015	11,986	971	...	87	30	...	57
Marburg ...	8,381	9,105	724	...	2	1	...	1
Maroochy ...	8,025	8,736	711	...	168	133	...	35
Maryborough ...	25,055	22,268	...	2,787	573	3,356	2,783	...
Mitchell ...	107,375	93,750	...	13,625	156,772	98,570	...	58,202
Nanango ...	87,828	85,000	...	2,828	9,340	6,810	...	2,530
Nerang ...	12,072	11,764	...	398	167	112	...	55
Redcliffe ...	11,583	12,096	513	...	...	1	...	1
Roma ...	85,052	74,860	...	10,192	182,783	123,228	...	59,555
Rosewood ...	19,892	20,136	244	...	406	205	...	201
St. George { Bollon ...	51,654	...	...	1,220	1,238,620	277,765	...	401,219
St. George }	60,941	8,067	...	...	559,636	...	...	...
South Brisbane ...	9,375	9,119	...	256	1,308	519	...	789
Stanthorpe ...	18,124	16,733	...	1,391	66,305	58,712	...	7,593
Surat ...	21,932	19,935	...	1,997	201,587	244,646	43,059	...
Tambo ...	22,181	19,645	...	2,536	396,786	362,481	...	34,305
Taroom ...	136,573	145,423	8,850	...	53,551	61,728	8,177	...
Tennering ...	20,844	22,255	1,411	...	59	80	21	...
Texas ...	9,215	8,020	...	1,195	2,339	2,698	359	...
Thargomindah ...	253,896	217,030	...	36,866	391,971	359,363	...	32,608
Tiaro ...	45,235	44,022	...	1,213	243	274	31	...
Toowoomba ...	51,405	46,295	...	5,110	627,346	625,827	...	1,519
Warwick ...	39,089	35,154	...	3,935	153,877	184,537	30,660	...
Windorah (one-half) ...	77,162	68,850	...	8,312	166,628	193,677	29,049	...
Woodford ...	20,721	19,751	...	970	276	212	...	64
Yeilba ...	12,268	10,994	...	1,274	311	265	...	46
Totals ...	2,241,946	2,042,387	32,085	231,644	7,261,419	6,080,238	234,287	1,415,468

Table No. V.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CATTLE and SHEEP in the various PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS comprised in the CENTRAL DIVISION of the Colony for the Years 1898 and 1899, together with the INCREASE or DECREASE in the latter Year.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Cattle.				Sheep.			
	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
Alpha	106,759	97,821	...	8,938	21,033	56,437	35,404	...
Aramac	27,001	13,856	...	13,145	329,881	177,940	...	151,941
Banana	93,714	92,537	...	1,177	13,772	17,897	4,125	...
Barcaldine	13,189	9,468	...	3,721	833,675	560,602	...	273,073
Blackall	4,315	4,566	251	...	725,023	597,728	...	127,295
Boulia	203,766	171,470	...	32,296	175,226	139,649	...	35,577
Clermont	162,207	150,802	...	11,405	630,553	753,934	123,381	...
Diamantina (one-half)	39,390	44,474	5,084	...	650	367	...	283
Emerald	38,593	42,522	3,929	...	887	67,113	66,226	...
Gladstone	88,215	86,336	...	1,879	2,816	5,925	3,109	...
Isisford	22,016	16,192	...	5,824	637,925	480,014	...	157,911
Longreach	33,250	52,278	19,028	...	1,843,828	1,277,898	...	565,930
Mackay (Nebo collection, say six-elevenths)	71,663	47,937	...	23,726	1,348	7,711	6,363	...
Mount Morgan	13,135	9,864	...	3,271	180	97	...	83
Muttaburra	68,839	38,704	...	30,135	1,556,706	1,346,335	...	210,371
Rockhampton	189,266	181,402	...	7,864	8,673	33,552	24,879	...
St. Lawrence	133,657	118,540	...	15,117	1,044	970	...	74
Springsure	145,518	138,417	...	7,101	236,139	388,196	152,057	...
Windorah (one-half)	77,161	68,850	...	8,311	166,627	195,676	29,049	...
Winton	122,815	98,334	...	24,481	1,247,392	796,185	...	451,207
Totals	1,654,469	1,484,370	28,292	198,391	8,433,378	6,904,226	444,593	1,973,745

Table No. VI.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CATTLE and SHEEP in the various PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS comprising the NORTHERN DIVISION of the Colony for the Years 1898 and 1899, together with the INCREASE or DECREASE in the latter Year.

Petty Sessions Districts.	Cattle.				Sheep.			
	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ayr	16,949	17,845	896	...	100	1,120	1,020	...
Bowen	101,182	84,092	...	17,090	1,663	2,898	1,235	...
Burke	137,914	134,864	...	3,050	...	...	...	...
Cairns	3,660	2,924	...	736	201	65	...	136
Camooweal	30,404	26,910	...	3,494	16,000	12,003	...	3,997
Cape River	95,564	76,905	...	18,659	...	...	...	...
Cardwell	5,010	5,170	160	...	200	50	...	150
Charters Towers	118,425	120,769	2,344	...	1,380	810	...	570
Cloncurry	278,919	239,833	...	39,086	369,531	455,724	86,193	...
Cook	27,986	26,912	...	1,074	2	...	...	2
Croydon	39,589	38,133	...	1,456	5	3	...	2
Douglas	916	1,331	415	...	...	...	...	...
Etheridge	96,572	73,501	...	23,071	...	...	...	...
Herberton	53,635	44,199	...	9,436	294	128	...	166
Hughenden	251,015	228,124	...	22,891	1,438,325	1,729,242	290,917	...
Ingham	22,907	22,414	...	493	372	380	8	...
Mackay (less Nebo collection, say five-elevenths)	59,717	57,519	...	2,198	1,124	9,253	8,129	...
Mareeba	1,820	1,971	151	...	...	...	...	...
Mourilyan	548	787	239	...	2	...	...	2
Norman	247,858	241,480	...	6,378	28,598	30,240	1,642	...
Palmer	16,359	13,254	...	3,105	12	...	...	12
Ravenswood	21,037	19,009	...	2,028	...	...	...	...
Somerset	913	173	...	740	...	...	...	...
Thornborough	33,653	31,556	...	2,097	...	...	...	...
Townsville	12,325	17,404	5,079	...	2	99	...	97
Totals	1,674,877	1,527,079	9,284	157,082	1,857,811	2,242,015	389,241	5,037

LIVE STOCK SLAUGHTERED.

Table No. VII.

RETURN of LIVE STOCK SLAUGHTERED for PRESERVATION as Food, or FREEZING or for TALLOW, during the YEARS 1890-1899, with the Quantity of MEAT, TALLOW, LARD, &c., produced.

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Average Number of Hands Employed.	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED.						MEAT PRESERVED OR FROZEN.						Extract and Essence of Meat Produced.	Quantity of Tallow Produced.	Quantity of Lard Produced.			
			Cattle.			Sheep.			Beef.			Mutton.								
			For Preserv-ing.	For Freezing.	For Boiling Down.	For Preserv-ing.	For Freezing.	For Boiling Down.	Hogs. †	Preserved.	Frozen.	Preserved.	Frozen.	Bacon. ‡						
1890	6	...	16,831	...	141,763	...	4,446	...	10,636,039	...	111,838	...	2,073	...	113,128	2,632	15,435			
1891	8	286	21,919	8,784	...	29,111	122,022	17,790	10,194,329*	...	148,135	6,639	75,102	...	28,264	11,183	56,764			
1892	16	989	28,683	24,567	32,000	170,683	162,662	317,421	19,329	3,008,090	17,862,694	1,751,909	5,650,907	1,149,778	3,971,018	168,805	15,683			
1893	25	1,129	43,543	39,828	41,166	150,668	66,025	1,070,082	56,145	7,751,031	28,137,501	1,726,541	2,851,255	3,971,018	21,263	21,263	159,093			
1894	31	1,127	77,916	48,558	67,611	394,405	57,787	417,328	48,539	17,640,457	33,305,023	5,862,373	2,749,042	4,695,280	168,805	15,683	84,070			
1895	39	2,848	104,969	80,487	98,374	385,060	75,600	743,257	58,870	9,849,396	50,349,956	5,088,502	3,064,458	4,941,512	511,533	21,263	159,093			
1896	35	2,838	77,719	76,483	87,562	262,151	100,550	430,696	67,034	19,197,234	50,245,213	2,914,902	4,571,086	5,108,726	517,011	12,736	203,972			
1897	38	2,604	62,342	111,267	85,754	259,536	70,865	615,454	76,719	b35,037,555	62,764,267	1,970,959	2,952,290	6,103,485	463,386	13,651	167,743			
1898	46	2,876	65,966	112,940	147,528	69,006	61,258	146,845	85,510	c25,181,919	64,676,868	967,363	2,355,030	6,973,007	1,593,285	13,609	16,194			
1899	Metropolitan	7																		
	Barcaldine	1																		
	Bowen	1																		
	Burke	1																		
	Caboolture	1																		
	Cardwell	1																		
	Charleville	1																		
	Charters Towers	1																		
	Emerald	1																		
	Esk	2																		
	Gatton	1																		
	Gladstone	2																		
	Goodna	1																		
	Harrisville	2																		
	Hughenden	2																		
	Longreach	1																		
	Mackay	2																		
	Mareeba	1																		
	Maryborough	1																		
	Nanango	3																		
	Rockhampton	2																		
	Roma	3																		
	St. Lawrence	2																		
	Toowoomba	4																		
	Townsville	2																		
	Warwick	1																		

* Of this 4,255,733 lb. were preserved, and 11,938,596 lb. frozen.

† In 1893 and subsequent years, the pigs killed by farmers for conversion into bacon or pork are included.

‡ Exclusive of pork (fresh and salt), made by farmers, in addition to their bacon.

§ Prior to this year returns were not separated.

a. Includes 182,586 lb. salted.

d. Includes 1,192,152 lb. salted.

‡ Includes 682,955 lb. salted.

§ Includes 326,232 lb. salted.

b. Includes 106,499 lb. salted.

c. Includes 1,972,000 lb. salted.

LIVE STOCK SLAUGHTERED--BY-PRODUCTS.

Table No. VIII.

OTHER PRODUCTS of MEAT PRESERVING, &c., ESTABLISHMENTS

Year.	No.	Manure.		Edible Fats.		Hides.		Skins.		Bones.		Horns and Hoofs.		Hair.		Oils, &c.		Total Value.
1895	...	36	4,505	11,124	560,219	6,599	280,781	161,795	1,170,559	160,545	1,332	5,001	3,905	59,434	1,979	28,454	2,661	353,609
1896	...	35	7,321	13,627	597,000	1,950	239,305	141,559	770,482	119,370	683	2,808	2,288	39,220	1,238	23,782	2,350	285,190
1897	...	33	10,738	24,654	673,385	8,455	259,160	161,979	928,330	125,043	954	3,696	3,307	76,539	1,848	18,478	1,819	330,801
1898	...	46	15,072	36,133	1,083,523	14,189	325,933	227,175	275,824	39,736	991	4,685	5,615	72,358	1,871	27,678	2,899	332,303
1899	...	47	17,347	56,446	985,121	13,163	395,929	337,931	524,215	97,016	1,265	6,363	10,819	92,487	2,359	26,000	2,831	526,928

Table No. IX.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of CATTLE, SHEEP, &c., SLAUGHTERED for CONSUMPTION for Food in SOME of the PRINCIPAL CITIES of QUEENSLAND, together with the AVERAGE DEAD WEIGHT of each ANIMAL and the ESTIMATED QUANTITY CONSUMED per CAPITA, for 1899.

CITY (including SUBURBS).	POPULATION.	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED.					AVERAGE DEAD WEIGHT.					LB. CONSUMED PER CAPITA.						
		Estimated for the Year.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Calves.	Lambs.	Pigs.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Calves.	Lambs.	Pigs.	Beef.	Mutton.	Veal.	Lamb.	Pork.	Total.
Bowen	...	2,416	1,012	850	3	26	75	663	39	150	30	72	278	14	...	...	2	294
Brisbane	...	110,951	35,000	195,000	7,000	5,000	8,000	650	44	45	30	85	205	77	3	1	6	292
Bundaberg	...	8,000	4,114	10,043	624	39	1,010	642	43	75	45*	80	330	54	6	...	10	400
Cairns	...	5,500	2,420	3,300	54	10	425	555	39	105	20	89	241	23	1	...	7	272
Charters Towers	...	26,790	14,094	51,310	...	...	3,244	580	38	...	...	76	305	73	...	9	387	
Cooktown	...	1,600	1,155	561	27	11	348	500	40	100	20	70	361	14	2	...	15	392
Gladstone	...	1,200	819	1,379	18	10	240	600	33	112	27	45	410	38	2	...	9	459
Gympie	...	15,500	4,290	12,240	888	150	984	600	45	56	30	80	166	36	3	...	5	210
Ipswich	...	18,235	5,760	16,824	597	...	798	630	42	40	...	70	199	39	1	...	3	242
Mackay	...	6,300	4,117	4,603	106	102	434	538	42	106	29	94	352	31	2	...	6	391
Maryborough	...	12,000	5,643	12,343	656	90	847	580	40	45	30	80	273	41	2	...	6	322
Normanton	...	900	770	210	30	...	265	475	37	90	...	50	406	9	3	...	15	433
Rockhampton	...	20,000	10,233	40,159	482	694	2,485	586	39	86	28	67	300	78	2	1	8	389
Roma	...	2,200	1,557	4,032	8	75	135	550	45	95	30	60	389	82	...	1	4	476
Toowoomba	...	18,000	4,932	26,055	240	...	1,000	750	58	60	...	110	206	84	1	...	6	297
Townsville	...	14,000	5,152	34,702	500	970	2,000	600	40	90	25	90	221	99	3	2	13	338
Warwick	...	5,150	2,000	6,800	60	189	220	600	45	100	30	120	233	59	1	1	5	299
Totals	...	268,742	103,068	420,411	11,293	7,366	22,510	617	42	53	29	81	237	66	2	1	7	313

* Prize lambs specially purchased for Christmas display.

Table No. X.

RETURN showing the TOTAL EXTENT of LAND under CULTIVATION, and the AREA under each DESCRIPTION of CROP, in the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the Colony of Queensland, during the Year 1899.

Table No. X.—*continued.*

RETURN showing the TOTAL EXTENT of LAND under CULTIVATION, and the AREA under each DESCRIPTION of CROP, in the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the Colony of Queensland, during the Year 1899—continued.

Table No. X.—continued.

RETURN showing the TOTAL EXTENT of LAND under CULTIVATION, and the AREA under each DESCRIPTION of CROP, in the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the Colony of Queensland, during the Year 1899—continued.

Table No. XI.

RETURN showing the GROSS PRODUCE of PRINCIPAL CROPS Raised in the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the Colony of Queensland during the Year ended 31st December, 1899.

* Details of individual districts not available—*Vide* Tables N and Na in body of Report.

Table No. XI.—continued.

RETURN showing the GROSS PRODUCE of PRINCIPAL CROPS raised in the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the Colony of Queensland during the Year ended 31st December, 1899—continued.

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PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS.	QUANTITY OF PRODUCE.																															
	GRAIN CROPS.										POTATOES.		Pumpkins.	Cotton.	SUGAR-CANE.		Arrowroot.	Tobacco (Cured Leaf).	Coffee.	Hay (All Kinds).	VINES.	Grapes Gathered.	Bananas.	Pineapples.	Oranges.							
	Barley.		Maize.	Rye.		Rice.		English.	Sweet.	Sugar-Cane.					Sugar-Cane.																	
	Wheat.	Oats.		Malting.	Other.					Sugar-Cane Crushed. *	Sugar. *	Sugar-Cane.																				
SOUTHERN. West of Main Range—continued.																																
Roma	25,235	25	...	...	...	1,136	...	7	2	109	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	637	169,580	...	...	4,170
St. George	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	215	9,400	...	...	5,600
Southwood	1,405	30	113	...	183								
Stanhope	1,538	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	173	16,474	...	...	...						
Surat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83	450	...	...	...						
Tambo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Texas	2,464	40	...	12	4,902	56	...	12	...	95	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,915	...	215	9,960	...	1,235		
Thargomindah	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41,374
Toowoomba	138,553	5,420	36,888	7,757	91,000	498	...	411	35	3,436	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,680	395,250	...	...	510
Warwick	155,563	740	20,238	2,851	112,136	68	...	1,359	34	5,558	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,855	208,596	...	...	...						
Windorah, part of	...	...	...	...	...	1,413	...	...	2	15	41	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	3,270	...	...	...						
Yeulba	7,042	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total West	597,855	9,884	91,392	17,410	408,594	1,006	...	3,976	120	15,375	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,536	...	49,742	1,094,135	...	68,154		
Total S. Div.	609,375	10,637	99,967	18,412	1,723,920	2,181	289	20,587	14,458	36,651	...	35,756	62,043	4,639	6,536	9,025	97,116	2,860,414	2,314,060	282,488	878,428	LG										
CENTRAL. East of Main Range.																																
Banana	949	12	60	28	1	6,250								
Clermont	60	60	...	...	...	949	...	...	12	60	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	68	6,370	...	...	...	4,451
Emerald	2,099	15	60	...	...	910	...	...	69	61	108	...	...	...	...	...	...	81	7,609	...	...	...	5,760
Gladstone	...	...	...	...	...	5,869	...	197	87	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	334	3,340	1,240	658	...	1,500
Mackay (Nebo collection)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,000	...	...	...	...					
Mount Morgan	...	...	...	...	...	370	...	4	29	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66	6,650	...	610	1,450	
Rockhampton	90	...	...	...	...	11,250	50	...	456	579	329	...	...	...	...	...	1,920	4,676	247,966	11,680	4,369	63,272	
St. Lawrence	...	...	...	...	...	1,219	...	25	70	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	734	13	2,300	820	434	1,000	
Springhurst	2,740	...	...	...	...	2,022	...	...	10	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4,480	...	...	200	
Total East	4,989	75	60	...	...	22,619	50	763	896	615	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,654	5,243	281,715	13,740	7,571	82,413
West of Main Range.																																
Alpha	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,000	...	...	...						
Aramac	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	219	15,872	...	...	...							
Barcaldine	30	...	...	...	...	20	...	4	8	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	85	9,500	...	...	...	250	
Blackall	...	...	...	...	...	100	...	6	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Boulia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diamantina, part of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,100	...	...	300
Isisford	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	5	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...						
Longreach	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,600	
Muttaburra	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Windorah	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	14	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,820	...	...								
Winton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total West	30	...	...	...	...	140	...	41	15	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	307	36,292	...	...	4,150	
Total Central Division	5,019	75	60	...	...	22,759	50	804	911	647	...	807	1,300	...	...	...	...	2,654	5,550	318,007	13,740	7,571	86,563			

* Details of individual districts not available—Vide Tables N and Na in body of Report.

Table No. XI.—continued.

RETURN showing the GROSS PRODUCE of PRINCIPAL CROPS raised in the several PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS of the Colony of Queensland during the Year ended 31st December, 1899—continued.

PETTY SESSIONS DISTRICTS.	QUANTITY OF PRODUCE.																											
	GRAIN CROPS,										POTATOES.		SUGAR-CANE.		Arrowroot.	Tobacco (Cured Leaf).	Coffee.	Hay (All Kinds.)	VINES.	Grapes Gathered.	Bananas.	Pineapples.	Oranges.					
	Barley.					Maize.					English.		Sweet.		Pumpkins.	Cotton.	Sugar-Cane Crushed.	Sugar.										
	Wheat.	Oats.	Malting.	Other.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Rye.	Rice.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Lb.	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Lb.	Tons.	Lb.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.				
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Lb.	Acre.	Tons.	Tons.												
NORTHERN. <i>East of Range.</i>																												
Ayr	5,680	...	...	34	542	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	500			
Bowen	6,326	...	...	131	160	64	...	...	...	...	...	47	630	37,003	1,128	88,210						
Cairns	59,053	...	6,304	111	566	301	...	...	...	...	67,143	10	...	26,979,616	82,374	91,730						
Cardwell	292	...	...	2	61	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47	41,246						
Cook	5,491	...	1,846	14	411	64	...	...	...	...	3,050	14	...	26,900	3,946	34,502						
Douglas	5,226	160	445	8	65	...	...	...	...	690	...	...	6,000	672	61,614							
Ingham	5,962	...	...	17	676	3	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	5,720	333	5,750						
Mackay (less Nebo collection)	20	...	...	...	...	...	7,194	...	150	176	1,124	36	...	...	...	...	97	7,020	45,850	11,245	26,200				
Mareeba	3,865	...	20	32	46	10	...	...	...	...	16,019	11	...	10,500	250	150						
Mowbray	1,956	...	...	177	136	11	...	...	...	20	6,400	2	...	6,664,952	4,550	2,050						
Somerset	50	...	...	52	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	106,780	3,192	5,200						
Townsville	408	...	...	291	41	134	...	...	...	...	9	...	65	4,230	900	482	4,500					
Total East	...	20	...	...	...	...	101,503	160	8,765	993	3,880	637	...	...	...	20	9	93,302	254	11,880	33,884,221	108,219	361,652		
<i>West of Range.</i>										2	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Burke			
Camooweal	5	15	9	6	2,140	9,240				
Cape River	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,000	...	1,440	...	30,590					
Charters Towers	5	6	3	190				
Cloncurry	20	...	...	9	70	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,030	789	1,730							
Croydon	8,220	...	221	139	286	30	...	...	...	10	...	...	500	4,574	45	740						
Etheridge	4	103,675	...	221	139	286	30	...	...	...	...	462	18,840	76,220	730	31,526						
Herberton	480	...	...	61	6	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	3,846	...	...	...	15,210					
Hughenden	2,499	...	...	13	84	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...	3,480					
Norman	2,190	...	...	17	47	6	...	...	...	...	...	25	...	1,390	410	950						
Total West	4	117,416	...	221	291	650	105	...	...	...	10	6	...	489	40,326	89,714	3,414	94,198						
Total N. Div.	...	20	...	...	4	218,919	160	8,986	1,284	4,530	742	...	42,872	59,946	30	15	93,302	743	52,206	33,973,935	111,633	455,848				
Grand Total, 1899	...	614,414	10,712	100,027	18,416	1,965,598	2,391	9,275	22,675	19,899	38,040	...	79,435	123,289	4,669	6,551	104,981	103,409	3,230,627	36,301,735	401,692	1,420,839						
," 1898	...	607,012	4,047	26,917	7,948	2,252,481	3,874	38,133	16,413	20,069	23,370	50	82,391	163,734	6,116	3,276	56,552	70,235	4,116,218	46,547,090	462,752	1,527,469						
Increases in 1899	...	7,402	6,665	73,110	10,468	286,883	1,483	28,858	...	6,262	...	170	...	14,670	...	50	2,956	40,445	1,447	3,275	48,429	33,174	885,591	10,245,355	61,060	106,630		
Decreases in 1899				

* Details of individual districts not available—Vide Tables N and Na in body of Report.

SHOWING THE TOTAL EXTENT OF LAND UNDER CULTIVATION AND THE AREA
Table No. XIII

AREA UNDER EACH DESCRIPTION OF CROP.

α Not specially returned prior to 1893

* These can no longer be kept separate

Table No. XIII

SHOWING the Gross Produce of PRINCIPAL CROPS raised in the Colony of QUEENSLAND—RETURN for TEN YEARS

QUANTITY OF PROBATE

* Not specially returned in previous years.

† Unginned.

AVERAGE PRODUCE PER ACRE OF PRINCIPAL CROPS—RETURN FOR TEN YEARS.

Table No. XIV.

♦ Ginned

† Unginned.

[‡] The manufacture of wine by the purchasers of the grapes and not the growers has now attained such proportions that the returns can no longer be kept distinct.

OTHER CROPS.

Table No. XV:

SHOWING the PRODUCE Obtained during the Year 1899 from "OTHER CROPS," details of which are not included in the GENERAL TABLES.